

For Immediate Release
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NL Centre for Health Information Holds 2017/2018 Annual General Meeting

St. John's, NL - The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information (the Centre) held its annual general meeting at the Ramada Inn in St. John's today. Kris Aubrey-Bassler, Board Chair, and Steve Clark, President and CEO (Acting), highlighted the Centre's accomplishments from the past year.

"In 2017/2018, the Centre continued to deliver on its legislated mandate including providing eHealth solutions to health care providers to support safer and improved patient care and create efficiencies within the health system. The leadership and incredible team of professional, hardworking employees, our dedicated Board of Directors and our key stakeholders remain committed to our vision of improving health through quality health information."

– *Kris Aubrey-Bassler, Board Chair, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information*

The Centre's 2017-2020 business plan outlines priorities across three strategic areas: be a trusted source of health information; be responsive and proactive to stakeholders' needs through system and process improvements; and deliver dynamic and innovative solutions. Some of the Centre's successes in 2017/2018 that supported these strategic areas included:

Be a trusted source of health information

- The Centre continued to provide extensive health analytic and evaluation services to inform health service delivery, policy and programs. Health analytic and evaluation services supported Health and Community Services in the development of a provincial health analytics action plan and made advancements towards an enhanced health analytic environment for the province which will provide stakeholders with new ways to interact with data and information, and improve responsiveness to health system information needs.
- In 2017/2018, the Centre conducted and supported a number of evaluations of provincial programs and initiatives including the Automated Appointment Notification Reminder System, Tobacco Cessation Program for Individuals with Low Income, the Prescription Monitoring Program-NL and Towards Recovery: Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan.
- In 2017/2018, The Centre was designated as the custodian of the provincial Chronic Disease Registry under the *Personal Health Information Act*. The Chronic Disease Registry is a comprehensive source of information on chronic disease that enables comparable monitoring and reporting on disease status, health service utilization and disease management in the province.
- The Centre also supported Health and Community Services and continued to plan and prepare for the implementation of an Indigenous Administrative Data Identifier to support service planning, delivery and population health for Indigenous residents of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Be responsive and proactive to stakeholders' needs through system and process improvements

- In 2017/2018, stakeholder use and adoption planning continued to be a priority in anticipation of more data being added to the provincial electronic health record, HEALTHe NL. New data was added from Labrador-Grenfell Health and Western Health. To complete the HEALTHe NL build, the last two data forums from Central Health, dictated reports and diagnostic imaging were added in the summer

2018. As of March 31, 2018 almost 5,600 authorized health providers have created accounts within HEALTHe NL, up from over 3,000 in March 31, 2017.

- The Centre continued to expand its programs and services to meet the needs of its stakeholders. In 2017/2018, the Centre secured almost \$10 million in ACOA funding to expand programs and services including health analytics, telehealth and an electronic referral and ordering system.
- In 2017/2018, the Centre engaged clinicians in education programs about the use and integration of HEALTHe NL and the provincial electronic medical record program, eDOCSNL, in practice. In partnership with MUN Office of Professional Development an accredited health profession education program was conducted and planning was started on an additional accredited program.
- The Centre increased stakeholder awareness of Centre programs and solutions which included presentations and participation at several health care professional events, activities and conferences. These included: HEALTHe NL demonstration to the NLMA Family Practice Renewal Program; presented at the Janeway Hospital Kids Rock and Ask the Experts conference; PANL conference; Hacking Health Hackathon; the MUN Continuing Professional Development at Dusk and a presentation to the College of Licensed Practical Nurses.

Deliver dynamic and innovative solutions

- In 2017/2018, the Centre was designated as the administrator of the Prescription Monitoring Program – NL, a provincial program that supports the Provincial Government’s Opioid Action Plan. The *Prescription Monitoring Act* came into force in January 2018, and required prescribers and dispensers to review a patient’s medication profile using HEALTHe NL before prescribing/dispensing a monitored drug, effective June 30, 2018.
- In 2017/18, eDOCSNL increased the number of physicians who joined the program by 107 to bring the total to 167 as of March 31, 2018. eDOCSNL is jointly governed by the Centre, Health and Community Services and the NL Medical Association.
- In 2017/18, eDOCSNL was successfully implemented into Eastern Health’s primary care clinic on the Bonavista Peninsula and extended into Burin Peninsula’s primary care clinic. Work also began on adding eDOCSNL to primary care clinics in both Western and Central Health.
- The Centre continued to increase the functionality of HEALTHe NL in 2017/2018 including the eOrdering pilot project. eOrdering will enable health care providers to electronically refer, schedule and prioritize patients for select procedures.

“In 2017/2018, the Centre saw tremendous growth and success. We advanced the provincial electronic health record, expanded the provincial electronic medical record and set the stage for future innovation and opportunities. We look forward to working with our health care partners to further the use of eHealth and digital health tools.”

– Steve Clark, *President and CEO (Acting), Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information.*

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About the Centre for Health Information

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information provides quality information to health professionals, the public, researchers, and health system decision-makers. Through collaboration with the health system, the Centre supports the development of data and technical standards, maintains key health databases, prepares and distributes health reports, and supports and carries out applied health research, evaluations, and analytics. The Centre’s work also includes the development and implementation of a confidential and secure provincial electronic health record and other provincial health information systems.

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