

For Immediate Release
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NL Centre for Health Information Holds 2014-2015 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. Ray Dillon, Board Chair, and Mike Barron, President and CEO, highlighted the Centre's accomplishments from the past year.

"2014-2015 marked significant progress on several fronts for the NL Centre for Health Information. Accomplishments in health information management and technology initiatives throughout the year advanced our vision of improving health through quality health information and have brought us closer to completing the provincial electronic health record. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our thanks and appreciation to our team, and health system partners."

– *Ray Dillon, Board Chair, Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information*

This was the first year of the Centre's 2014-2017 business plan, which outlined priorities across three strategic areas: Provincial Health Information Systems, Quality Health Information, and Stakeholder Engagement. Some of the Centre's successes last fiscal that supported these strategic areas included:

Provincial Health Information Systems

- In 2014-2015, the Centre made significant progress with HEALTHe NL, the provincial electronic health record. The majority of the work associated with adding laboratory information, discharge summaries and other clinical information from Eastern Health to HEALTHe NL was completed.
- The Pharmacy Network, a key component of HEALTHe NL, received significant application upgrades to improve efficiencies and system performance. As of March 2015, there were more than 7.2 million prescriptions in the Pharmacy Network associated with more than 314,130 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.
- The Centre in partnership with the Provincial Government and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association issued a request for proposals to develop a provincial electronic medical record (EMR) system to be used in physician practices. An EMR digitizes patient information in a physician's clinic that has been traditionally stored and recorded in paper files.
- The Telepathology Network, jointly funded by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada Health Infoway, will give patients and pathologists across the province greater access to pathology services and support. All originally planned infrastructures have been installed and implemented in a test environment. Clinical validation is ongoing, with anticipated completion in fiscal 2015-16.

Quality Health Information

- The Health Analytics and Evaluation Services group completed a detailed analysis of data collected at the 13 regional health forums, and prepared the discussion document for the Premier's Summit on Health Care.
- The Centre worked collaboratively with the Department of Health and Community Services and the four Regional Health Authorities to develop a *Mental Health and Addictions Programs Performance Indicators* report to support the ongoing delivery and management of mental health and addictions programs and services in the province.

- In fiscal 2014-15, the Centre developed an evaluation plan for the Community Rapid Response Team Initiative, a provincial pilot project which provides select seniors presenting to emergency rooms across the province with enhanced home support services for a defined period of time.
- An inventory of aging-related information was compiled and an assessment was performed on the quality of the data. This information and research can be used to support future program and policy planning as it relates to healthy aging.

Stakeholder Engagement

- The Centre worked closely with provincial stakeholders to develop a focused deployment action plan for HEALTHe NL. Over 24 clinicians representing all core health professions continued to provide guidance to HEALTHe NL development, and future information and functionality needs.
- Partnered with Canada Health Infoway to co-brand a national advertising campaign about digital health.
- Twelve provincial accredited continuing education programs were held during fall 2014 that supported the adoption and use of Centre programs and systems.

“Our success in 2014-2015 has moved HEALTHe NL, the provincial electronic health record, much closer to being a complete patient profile available province-wide. The Centre’s clinical information programs support patient safety real-time while analytics and evaluation services provide quality information to the health system to inform and support health system management.”

– *Mike Barron, President and CEO, 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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