

President's report
PEI College of Family Physicians
Annual General Meeting
May 30, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present this final report as President of the PEI College of Family Physicians.

Over the past two years, our Chapter has been actively engaged in advocacy, leadership, and collaboration to support and strengthen Family Medicine across the province. A major milestone was the ratification of the new Physician Services Agreement in the summer of 2024, with key changes effective in April 2025. Our Chapter successfully advocated for critical investments, including:

- Formal recognition of Family Medicine as a specialty
- A new hybrid salary/capitation model with enhanced benefits
- Pay equity improvements for LFM physicians
- Increased vacation and CME allowances
- A flexible, comprehensive LFM model
- Reduced administrative burden through the phased removal of shadow billing

While these changes are encouraging, concerns remain around panel size policies tied to physician remuneration. Our Chapter conducted an impact survey highlighting risks to recruitment, retention, and access to care. These results have been shared with stakeholders, leading to ongoing dialogue. This evolving issue will require close attention and continued engagement over the coming months. I am thankful to my colleagues for uniting behind our shared advocacy on this critical matter.

Our Chapter has been engaged in advocacy at the provincial and federal levels to encourage continued investments in team-based primary care via the Patient Medical Home model. We have been pleased to see bilateral agreements invest millions of new dollars in this work. However, critical gaps persist in physician leadership, staffing, and practice supports, threatening the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Looking ahead, the new UPEI/MUN Medical School will launch in fall 2025, with a strong focus on Family Medicine training. While we anticipate the program's impact on recruitment and the future of Family Medicine, key details regarding its integration into the medical system and the future of the Dalhousie PEI Family Medicine Residency program remain unclear.

As we have transitioned from the isolating shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have sought to nurture a sense of connection and community. Social events have brought together members, including new physicians and residents. Our annual Family Medicine Conference has seen record attendance, with the return of research posters strengthening our research community. Our Atlantic Chapter collaboration on virtual CME and the Patient Medical Home Symposium has connected us with our regional peers.

Our Chapter has also rebuilt strong ties with CFPC and other provincial Chapters. As the CFPC has prioritized balancing its budget, we are grateful for their recognition of Chapter value through a formal commitment to the ongoing availability of transfer payments. These funds are essential to the operations of our small Chapter and will allow us to better invest in longer-term projects that will benefit members.

As I conclude my term, I am proud of the progress we have made and excited to see what opportunities the future brings. Dr. Trina Stewart will assume the presidency, bringing extensive clinical and leadership experience, along with a deep commitment to Family Medicine.

I will finish by thanking you for the opportunity to serve. Thank you for your inspiration, your passion, and your commitment to improving the lives of Islanders and each other. I look forward to our continued work together.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SS', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Steve Scales

President, PEI College of Family Physicians