



MEMO

TO: Senior Leadership Team, Central Zone Staff and Physicians

FROM: Dr. Nicole Boutilier, Executive Vice President Medicine, and Clinical Operations
Eileen MacGibbon, VP Clinical Operations CZ

DATE: October 2, 2025

RE: Dr. Aaron Smith named Central Zone Medical Executive Director

We are excited to share with you that Dr. Aaron Smith was the successful candidate in our search to fill the Central Zone Medical Executive Director position. His new role will be effective as of October 15, 2025.

Dr. Smith brings a vast amount of leadership experience to this role, having served as a Zone Medical Executive Director previously and most recently as the Provincial Medical Executive Director and Operational Lead for Primary Care Clinic and Health Homes, where he played a key role in helping transform primary care in our province.

Dr. Smith grew up in Pictou County, attended Mount Allison University (BSc Biology) and then Dalhousie University for graduate studies in Community Health and Epidemiology and medical school. Following this, he completed two years of family medicine residency in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Deeply rooted in Nova Scotia and passionate in advancing health care in our province, he has strived to be an active physician leader in his community and sought out ways to work collaboratively with teams to reshape the future of health care. Supporting projects, such as the physician workforce planning, various quality improvement initiatives, and service redesign aligned with our provincial priorities. Pushing to advance both clinical and operational goals by consistently supporting innovation and collaboration across healthcare providers, system partners, and community organizations.

Aaron's leadership approach is grounded in the LEADS framework and strengthened by formal training through the Health System Leadership Academy and the EXTRA Fellowship in system improvement. He is excited at the opportunities ahead to collaboratively work with such a high-performing leadership team in Central Zone.

Please join us in welcoming Aaron into this role. We would like to also take this time to thank Dr. Tony O'Leary for taking on the additional responsibilities as Interim Medical Executive Director for CZ and for graciously offering to remain in the role until October 17, 2025, allowing for a smooth handover to Dr. Smith.