

Primary HealthCare

PLANNING



Bell Island



Eastern
Health

Message from David Diamond

President and CEO, Eastern Health



Access to health care services is a priority shared by Eastern Health, our community partners and the general population. We continue to explore ways to improve the access, quality and delivery of services within our acute care, long-term care, public health and mental health and addictions programs.

We need to examine not only the first point of contact for patients, clients and residents - but also to make the best use of current resources to meet the health needs and improve the overall health status of the populations we serve. This means that, together, we may want to consider a different model of care, one that directly impacts patient satisfaction and the overall patient experience and would also offer a more sustainable service in the long term.

With that in mind, you have been invited to share in the process of identifying concrete solutions to help transform primary health care on Bell Island.

As part of its Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 entitled, *Lighting the Way: Navigating Together*, Eastern Health renewed its commitment to timely access to quality services in the eastern region.

In **Bonavista**, for example, we made several changes in the delivery of primary health care - by offering interdisciplinary team approaches to patient care; conducting efficiency exercises in emergency care to reduce wait times, while also hiring physicians and nurse practitioners. And last year, our mental health and addictions staff on the **Burin Peninsula** took a completely different approach to the delivery of their services – with the introduction of several walk-in clinics. It was a big step in the right direction to address increasing demand, waitlists and an unprecedented spike in the number of suicides in the area.

With your help, we plan to address identified health needs and build on strengths on Bell Island as well. Thank you in advance for your interest, your time and valuable ideas, and for partnering with us to help improve both the delivery and outcomes of health care in your communities.

Sincerely,

David Diamond
President and CEO Eastern Health

What is Primary Health Care?

In Newfoundland and Labrador, primary health care is typically a person's first point of contact with the health-care system.

Primary health care is a philosophy for organizing and delivering a comprehensive range of coordinated and collaborative community-based services that empower individuals, families and communities to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing. Effective primary health care requires a culture and system designed to be responsive to the needs and realities of individuals, families and local communities.

It encompasses a full range of community-based services essential to maintaining and improving health and wellbeing.

Primary health care can include interactions with providers, such as family doctors, pharmacists, social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, counsellors, community volunteers, and others.

It includes services that promote health and wellness, prevent illness, treat health issues or injuries, and diagnose and manage chronic health conditions.

Primary health care is essential health care made accessible at a cost which the country and community can afford, with methods that are practical, scientifically sound, and socially acceptable.

A highly effective primary health-care system should support individuals, families, communities and the health sector to proactively prevent illness and maintain health. This includes recognizing and working to improve social conditions that have a significant impact on health, such as income, housing, education, and environment, known as the 'determinants of health.'

Primary Health-Care Providers:

- Chiropractors
- Counsellors
- Diabetes educators
- Dietitians
- Family doctors
- Mental Health and Addictions counsellors
- Nurse practitioners
- Occupational therapists
- Pharmacists
- Dentists
- Physiotherapists
- Registered nurses
- Psychologists
- Community Health Nurses
- Social workers
- Speech language pathologists
- Health educators
- Paramedics
- Self-management leaders
- Community volunteers
- Educators

What We Know

Over the past 15 years, Canadian provinces and countries around the world have made changes to the way primary health care is delivered. Greater focus has been placed on preventative services delivered in the community - rather than waiting until people are so sick that they need to visit emergency departments, have invasive surgeries, lose mobility, or require expensive medications.

Here in Newfoundland and Labrador, we've already made some changes to the way we deliver primary health-care services, such as allowing authorized pharmacists to deliver influenza vaccines. The provincial government's primary health care framework, *Healthy People, Healthy Families, Health Communities: A Primary Health Care Framework for Newfoundland and Labrador 2015-2025*, identifies four goals to improving primary health care: 1) Engaged individuals, families and communities sharing responsibility for health promotion and illness and injury prevention, early intervention and self-management. 2) Individuals and families attached to a Primary Health Care Team. 3) Timely access to comprehensive, person-focused primary health-care services and supports. 4) Connected and coordinated services and supports across the health and social sectors.

We also know there is more we can and should do at the local level. We can learn from the programs put in place in other parts of the province; in Bonavista, for example, during the past two years, we have made a number of changes in the delivery of primary health care, by offering an interdisciplinary team approach to patient care and conducting efficiency exercises in our emergency care to reduce wait times, while also implementing a full complement of physicians and nurse practitioners. We believe that many of those successful measures can also be applied to Bell Island - but to move forward, we want to know what is most important to you. Our health care system is always evolving, and we know there are a variety of changes we can make to improve it.

The Social Determinants of Health and an Engaged Community

The Social Determinants of Health

The Social Determinants of Health refer to the social and economic conditions that impact on the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. These determinants include education, socioeconomic status, employment, housing, early life experiences, access to social supports, and food security. When peoples' experiences in relation to these determinants are positive, health and quality of life is improved. Integrating the social determinants of health as we improve and build new models for primary health care, acknowledges the interplay between and impact of these social determinants on one's physical and mental health.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is critical to improving population health and to ensuring we address the social determinants of health. The people, families and groups living in our communities are an invaluable resource. They have a wealth of skills, knowledge and experiences that must be leveraged to improve the health and wellbeing of those within their communities. It's essential they be informed and valued participants in improving the way we organize services and supports to achieve optimal health and wellness.

A health-care system – even the best health-care system in the world – will be only one of the ingredients that determine whether your life will be long or short, healthy or sick, full of fulfillment, or empty with despair.

- The Honourable Roy Romanow, 2004

Demographics

When considering the population, it is important to examine the demographics. There is evidence to suggest that socio-economic conditions affect the population's health status, and that as people age, individuals are more likely to have chronic conditions (sometimes multiple) resulting in higher rates of morbidity and mortality.

Indicator	Bell Island	Eastern Health	Province
Population > 65 ¹	22.9%	17.9%	19.4%
Median Age (years) ²	53	44	46
Employment Rate ³	27.5%	55.0%	50.7%
Completed High School ⁴	63.6%	84.2%	79.6%

Sources:

- 1) According to Health Analytics and Evaluation Services Department (Statistics Canada Population Estimates Dataset, 2007-2016)
- 2) Compiled by the Health Analytics and Evaluation Services Department using the Statistics Canada, National Household Survey, 2016, as posted on Community Accounts, Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador (accessed 2018-08-20).
- 3) Data describes percentage of people aged 15 years and over in Wabana who were employed. Retrieved from Statistics Canada *Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-404-X2016001. Ottawa, Ontario (accessed 2018-08-20)
- 4) Data describes percentage of people aged 25 to 64 in Wabana who had completed a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. Retrieved from Statistics Canada *Focus on Geography Series, 2016 Census*. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-404-X2016001. Ottawa, Ontario (accessed 2018-08-20).

Health Services

Dr. Walter Templeman Health Center

The Dr. Walter Templeton Health Center provides a variety of health services including

- Long Term Care
- Respite Care
- Palliative Care
- 24/7 Emergency Services
- Out Patient Clinic daily Monday - Friday
- Family Practice Clinics daily Monday - Friday
- Laboratory Routine Services Monday - Friday
- Laboratory Emergency Service 24/7
- Routine X-Ray Services
- Social Work Services for over 65 yrs. Population, Monday – Friday
- Telemedicine
- Mental Health and Addictions Services one (1) day per week
- Community Health Nursing
- Public Health Nursing

Community Services

Each of these programs deliver their services in a variety of settings, including client homes, various community locations, and in their offices.

Community Supports Program provides a wide range of services to clients and families both in their own homes and in the clinic settings by a variety of health professionals.

- Acute care Services and Post-Acute Nursing Care follow-up
- Assessment for Personal Care Home and Long-Term Care Placement
- Falls Prevention Program
- Home Support Services
- Palliative and End-of-Life Services
- Wound Management Services
- Clinical and Financial Assessment Services to seniors requiring home support, as well as adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities requiring support in their home to maintain their independence in the community;
- Special Assistance Programs for equipment, orthotics, home oxygen, etc. to clients who meet eligibility requirements.

Community Services

Population and Public Health Program offers services and activities designed to keep people healthy and prevent injury and illness. Our goal is to protect and promote the health of individuals and communities within Eastern Health.

Services provided by the Public Health Program include:

- Prenatal Education and Support
- Healthy Beginnings Program: Support for Newborns, Young Children and their Families
- Breastfeeding Support
- Child Health Clinics
- Preschool Health Check Clinics
- Communicable Disease Control and Follow-up
- Health Promotion

Mental Health and Addictions Program offers a range of services including:

- Assessment
- Counselling
- Consultation
- Short-term Treatment

These services are offered across the lifespan targeting children and youth, adults and seniors experiencing mental health challenges and mental illness.

Questions

1. What aspects of the primary health-care system are working well in your community/region?

2. What aspects of the primary health-care system are not working so well in your community/region?

3. What recommendations do you have for changing/improving primary health care on Bell Island?

Questions

4. Community Involvement is important in creating a healthy and vibrant place to live and grow. What would make your community a healthier place to live?

5. Do you have any additional comments you would like to make with regards to primary health care on Bell Island?

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact:

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