



For Immediate Release

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Labrador-Grenfell Health Implements Government Renewal Initiatives

Labrador-Grenfell Health is announcing today measures that will reduce spending and generate additional revenue in the 2016-17 fiscal year. These decisions are a result of the Government Renewal Initiative recently announced by the Provincial Government in Budget 2016 to address the fiscal challenges.

Labrador-Grenfell Health anticipates the initiatives in this announcement will realize savings of \$858,300 in the 2016-17 fiscal year, annualizing to \$1,395,500 in 2017-18. The measures will result in the elimination of 6.1 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs).

“The actions that are being taken by Labrador-Grenfell Health are the result of a careful and thorough review of the money it spends to deliver health care services and programs,” said Tony Wakeham, President and Chief Executive Officer. “While we will continue to deliver a broad range of programs and services, our efforts will be focused on identifying efficiencies that will be aimed at achieving cost savings in the months and years to come.”

The measures are:

- **Changes to the Service Delivery Model at the Black Tickle Community Clinic:** Labrador-Grenfell Health is changing the method of health care delivery at the clinic to a regular visiting service. Effective October 1, 2016, a Regional Nurse will travel to the community once a week to see clients who require routine health care. Support will continue to be provided by Labrador-Grenfell Health employees through a reduced work schedule. Regular visits to the community by physicians and community health nurses will continue to take place. Provisions for the delivery of emergency care and prescribed medications to residents of the community are in place.
- **Consolidating Dental Services in the Flower’s Cove and Roddickton-Bide Arm areas and Southeast Labrador:** Labrador-Grenfell Health is combining dental services currently provided at Flower’s Cove, Roddickton-Bide Arm, Port Hope Simpson and Charlottetown. Clients will continue to access dental services at the four dental clinics. Under the consolidated service, one dentist and one dental assistant will provide services to the four locations through a travelling arrangement. Dental hygiene services, already provided on a traveling basis between Flower’s Cove and Roddickton, are not impacted by this change. The consolidation of the service comes into effect on October 1, 2016. Labrador-Grenfell

Health will monitor wait times for dental services in these areas and commits to making adjustments to the travelling schedule based on appointment demand.

- **Fee Increase for the Chartered Air Service:** Effective October 1, 2016, a fee increase will be implemented for patients who travel for appointments on the chartered air service, commonly referred to as the 'schedevac'. The round trip fee for the North and South Coast is increasing to \$80. Escorts who accompany patients will continue to travel at no cost.
- **Changes to the Chartered Schedevac Air Service Schedule for Coastal Labrador:** Effective July 1, 2016, the schedevac will move to a twice-a-week service on the South Coast only. This service will be in place from July of each year to December of each year. The service will return to three days a week from January to June. Labrador-Grenfell Health will monitor the availability of ferry transportation and make adjustments accordingly.
- **Orthodontic Service in Labrador:** Labrador-Grenfell Health is discontinuing its contract for private orthodontist services to residents of Central, Northern and Coastal Labrador. Although orthodontic services are a non-insured benefit, Labrador-Grenfell Health had a contract in place to subsidize the provision of these services. Clients who utilize the orthodontic service will be notified and the continued operation of the service will be at the discretion of the private orthodontist on a private fee-for-service basis.
- **Streamlining Senior Leadership:** Labrador-Grenfell Health is reducing a senior leadership executive position through attrition. Responsibilities of the position will be redistributed through existing positions.

"Through its review of expenditures, Labrador-Grenfell Health made it a priority to minimize the impact on employees and service delivery. We recognize the contributions all of our employees make in the delivery of quality health care services to the people of Northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and value their hard work and dedication," said Mr. Wakeham. "It's important for the public to understand that initiatives announced by Labrador-Grenfell Health to generate savings in health care spending and increase revenues are aligned with efforts by the Provincial Government to achieve fiscal sustainability."

Labrador-Grenfell Health is committed to the process of identifying further efficiencies in its operations and will continue to work closely with the Provincial Government through the Government Renewal Initiative.

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