



31 August 2011

Honourable Madeline Dubé
Minister of Health
Province of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Dear Minister Dubé,

On behalf of the members of the Saint John Board of Trade we respectfully submit this letter outlining our view and recommendations on the *Improving Access and Delivery of Primary Health Care Services in New Brunswick* discussion paper released in November 2010 as part of the public consultation on this matter.

The Saint John Board of Trade generally agrees with the concepts and goals provided in the discussion paper to implement a sustainable primary healthcare system that will better serve the patient. The Board respectfully recommends that further examination of the overall costs of implementation and the long-term benefits of the proposed changes be conducted to ensure the proposed changes/enhancements to the primary healthcare system are advantageous to all. In the draft paper, a cost analysis was included on the projected cost and benefit of electronic health information technologies. A similar analysis would be recommended in regards to, specifically, the idea of a "Medical Home" with its focus on the role of the family physician as a clinical team leader, and should explore mechanisms to ensure accountability, performance, and encourage a concentration on health prevention (wellness).

The Saint John Board of Trade is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations and therefore, the interests of more than 30,000 citizens, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. The elected Board of Directors is representative of the diversity of the membership and their concerns.

Sincerely,


Imelda Gilman
President



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member of the canadian chamber of commerce network