



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AT HEALTH BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 26, 2004: At the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association (NLHBA) Annual General Meeting today, Verdon Young, NLHBA President, welcomed the Honourable John Ottenheimer, Minister of Health and Community Services, who brought greetings from the Department and presented the four awards for the 2004 Article of the Year competition.

For the 2004 NLHBA Article of the Year Awards, Minister Ottenheimer presented the prize in the category: *Health Services, Technical, Professional or Educational*, to **Trudy Read, Health and Community Services Western** for her article, *Articulating What We Do: Community Services in the Western Region. A Population Health Approach*. In the category: *Innovations, Best Practices and Quality Initiatives*, the award for First Place was presented to **Kevin B. Durdle, Health and Community Services Eastern**, for his article, *Enabling the Electronic Health Record*. Joint Second Place awarded were presented to **Gail M. Carroll, St. John's Nursing Home Board** for *A Matter of Respect* and to **Jocelyn Farrell, Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation** for *Management of Skin Toxicity in the Patient Receiving Radiation Therapy*. All these articles have been posted on the NLHBA website, www.nlhba.nf.ca and, in past years, winning articles have been picked up for publication by national health publications.

“The Association has had a productive year,” said John Peddle, NLHBA Executive Director, as he presented the 2004 NLHBA Annual Report. He highlighted some long-planned projects that have born fruit in the past year after months or even years of work, such as the new, responsive tendering system for Group Purchasing; the renewed interest in staying in this province by graduates of Memorial University Medical School; the online inventory of research and quality practices going on in health boards; the extension of the Pastoral/Spiritual Care programs into the community; the very successful health leadership workshops facilitated by the Health Human Resources group, amongst other innovative initiatives. “Through prudent management of our resources,” he added, “we have ended this year with a budget surplus.” He went on to say “It is also a landmark year, as we meet together for the final time in this incarnation of health boards. In 2005 we are looking forward to a newly restructured health and community services system, a logical step in the history of the health and community services system. We have been slowly moving towards an integrated health and community services system over the past decade. In today’s system we have two integrated health boards and now

we will be working with four larger regional integrated health authorities. We look forward to the future as we work towards the best possible health and community services system for the people of this province.”

John Ottenheimer, Minister of Health and Community Services attended today’s awards ceremony and thanked the NLHBA and trustees of the various boards for their dedication and commitment to Newfoundland and Labrador’s health care system over the past number of years. “The Department of Health and Community Services has enjoyed a very positive working relationship with the NLHBA,” said Minister Ottenheimer. “I look forward to working together in the coming year under a new board governance structure.”

All health services, both in facilities and in the community, and all community services, including health promotion, child, youth and family services, community corrections and youth diversion programs, and adult services, are currently delivered by health boards in Newfoundland and Labrador. The NLHBA advocates on behalf of health boards to Government and the public of the province, and offers services and programs to health boards.

Contact Information:

Mr. John Peddle

Executive Director

Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association (NLHBA)

Telephone (709) 364-7701, Ext. 317; fax (709) 364-6460

email address: jpeddle@nlhba.nf.ca