FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEALTH BOARDS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES RESIDENT AWARENESS DAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2005

February 18, 2005**:** The Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association is proud to congratulate the medical residents of this province for their valuable role in the provincial health and community services system. More than 5500 medical residents across the country will celebrate the 5th annual Resident Awareness Day on Feb 22, 2005. This day is aimed at building public awareness about medical residents and the work they do.

"Residents are physicians who have completed medical school and are now training in a speciality field such as family medicine, surgery or psychiatry," explains John Peddle, NLHBA Executive Director. "Speciality training lasts 2 to 6 years and upon completion of residency and examinations, residents become fully licensed family doctors or specialists."

There are more than 150 residents working throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. These physicians deliver round the clock medical care to patients and their families whether it is in the ICU, surgical or medical wards, delivery room or out-patient clinics. In addition to their clinical duties, residents are active in academic research and are key contributors to medical education by teaching medical students, peers and other healthcare professionals. This year Newfoundland and Labrador medical residents will also participate in education sessions with high school students across the province via teleconference. The goal is to stimulate interest in medicine as a career for our province's youth.

Residents must balance time with their families with clinical and teaching responsibilities, research and study. On this Resident Awareness Day, the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Boards Association is pleased to ask the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to reflect upon the unique and important role residents are playing in the health care delivery of our province.

Contact Information:

Mr. John Peddle
NLHBA Executive Director
Telephone (709) 364-7701, Ext. 317
email address: jpeddle@nlhba.nf.ca

Dr. Cynthia Slade
VP PAIRN
570 9452 (pager)
sladecynthia@nl.rogers.com