

Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority Regional Directive: To Provide Excellent Pastoral Care Services in Health

Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority has the great strength of a history and heritage of a holistic approach to health care and spiritual care. There is a tradition of strong pastoral care involved with health. Some of the challenges in providing excellent Pastoral Care Services in Health are the distances and vast geography of the region. Many communities have no pastoral care presence or no clergy that lives in the community. In many denominations the clergy has more than one congregation, multi point charges, and huge distances to travel. Many clergy are very involved in the programs and issues of the denominational head office. Many clergy feel that they can participate in Pastoral Care in Health Committee meetings, but they cannot lead them or cast vision. Many of the clergy feel that Pastoral Care in Health is too much for the community clergy to spearhead, but they desire to give excellent Pastoral Care to their congregation members and community. Excellent organized Pastoral Care needs to be a full time position funded by the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority.

We strongly suggest that Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority create and fund the position of a Director of Pastoral Care for the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority.

The Director of Pastoral Care for the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority will:

- Conduct training
- Upgrade the skills of clergy
- Support the community clergy by being a pastor to the pastors
- Build relationships with the Health Care Staff and be part of the interdisciplinary team, building bridges with social workers and nurses.
 - Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital
 - Padden Memorial Home
 - Curtis Memorial Hospital
 - Nursing Stations
- Organize teleconference for the clergy for training and communication
- Communicate to the Provincial coordinator the training events needed and what Pastoral Care supports are needed.
- Create a lay Pastoral Care visitation program that is created by and part of the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority program.
 - Lay pastoral care visitors would be screened, trained, and released by the Director of Pastoral Care for the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority.
 - Continuity would be created with the health care staff.
 - Lay pastoral care visitors will have photo identification and be given official status by the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority.
 - The Director of Pastoral Care for the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority would work with community clergy and local churches in recruiting lay Pastoral Care workers, but it would be made clear that the lay Pastoral Care workers are asked to be part of the Labrador-Grenfell Health Authority program and not a local church program.