



*Canadian Medical Association & Provincial/Territorial Medical Associations
Presidents Forum*

May 1, 2013

Honourable David Alward
Premier
Centennial Building
P. O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB
E3B 5H1

Dear Premier Alward,

Canada's physicians are united in our concern over the way your government is treating our colleagues in New Brunswick. We are convinced that the path you have chosen has but one inevitable outcome: patient care for the residents of your province will suffer.

Although other provinces initially chose the same unilateral path you have, they quickly learned that by working with physicians better decisions can be made — decisions that will help find savings and efficiencies without having a negative impact on patient care.

Breaking a signed agreement with your doctors sends an ominous message that you believe you can proceed to make health care decisions without consulting the physicians who deliver the care. That is bad medicine. Global experience shows that successful system change has required the support of the medical community.

Doctors recognize the need to help governments find savings in health care, especially during these challenging fiscal times. However, partnership and collaboration will prove far more successful than unilateral action. This has already been the case in several provinces, and the same can be true of New Brunswick.

We call on you to respect agreements that have been negotiated in good faith and to start discussions on how to tackle tough problems. We hope you will reconsider your position, and work in collaboration with New Brunswick's doctors to meet the challenges you face.

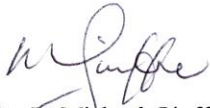
Sincerely,



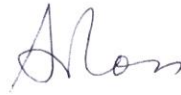
Dr. Suzanne Strasberg
Chair, Presidents Forum



Dr. Anna Reid
President, Canadian Medical Association



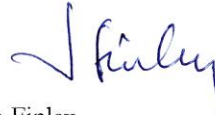
Dr. R. Michael Giuffre
President, Alberta Medical Association



Dr. Shelley Ross
President, British Columbia Medical Association



Dr. Pravinsagar Mehta
President, Doctors Manitoba



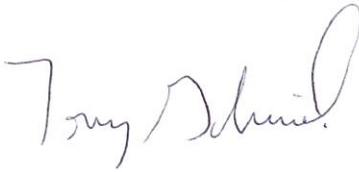
Dr. John Finley
President, Doctors Nova Scotia



Dr. David Bannon
President, Medical Society of PEI



D^r Robert Desjardins
Président, Société médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick



Dr. Tony Gabriel
President, Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association



Dr. David Pontin
President, Northwest Territories Medical Association



Dr. Doug Weir
President, Ontario Medical Association



D^r Laurent Marcoux
Président, Association médicale du Québec



Dr. Janet Shannon
President, Saskatchewan Medical Association



Dr. Rao Tadepalli
President, Yukon Medical Association