



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
Société de la médecine rurale du Canada

Media Release

Rural Doctors Support Newfoundland Strike

Burin Bay Arm NF/Oct 2nd 2002/- The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) regrets that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has pushed its physicians to the point where withdrawal of services is the only avenue open to them. Rural physicians have had much to contend with over the past few years. Dr Joshua Foley, SRPC exec from Burin Bay says "There are too few doctors which has led to heavy workloads, burnout and high turnover rates. The income disparity between Newfoundland physicians and those of the other provinces of Atlantic Canada have increased the problems."

Every year a net of 40 to 50 Newfoundland doctors leave for the mainland not to come back. The province needs to look towards working conditions that will make doctors want to stay. The recruitment and retention of physicians in rural Newfoundland and Labrador will be improved by acknowledging the need for income parity in Atlantic Canada.

The SRPC urges the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to treat its physicians equitably.

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Backgrounder

About the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC's mission is to provide leadership for rural physicians and to promote sustainable conditions and equitable health care for rural communities.

On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural doctors and communities in crisis, promoting and delivering rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care.

The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization representing over 1,300 of Canada's rural physicians and comprising 5 regional divisions spanning the country.