



August 5, 2025

Yesterday, MLA Matt MacFarlane of the Green Party of PEI, issued a statement in respect to the new policies of Health PEI that outline performance metrics for physicians offering primary care. These policies have been a topic of discussion between Health PEI and the Medical Society of PEI, who is concerned that the number of patients the government will require a primary care physician to see each day will not allow them adequate time to provide appropriate care.

As front-line primary care providers, Nurse Practitioners (NPs) can empathize firsthand with the struggles that physicians are facing. One of the keys to keeping a population healthy is understanding their needs, which is achieved by performing comprehensive assessments, focusing on preventative medicine and overall well-being, getting to know what is important to patients, and working collaboratively to maintain and promote health. This requires time, which is something that Health PEI and the provincial government is not providing physicians under their new policies. Most importantly, Islanders must have access to primary care providers, whether they be NPs or physicians, and the current government has not created an environment that is conducive to attracting healthcare professionals in the numbers needed by Prince Edward Island.

Health PEI and the Conservative government need to work with healthcare providers and Islanders to understand how to improve access to primary care. While the current government appears focused on single care delivery strategies, the PEI Nurse Practitioners Association urges the PC government to broaden their perspective in seeking solutions. Nurse Practitioners provide a cost effective and quality care delivery solution that improves Islanders' access to quality primary care while also being affordable and sustainable. The government and Health PEI must develop solutions in collaboration with all stakeholders, ones that will attract care providers to PEI and encourage primary care providers to practice in this province.

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