



HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS FOR NOVA SCOTIA

A Message from the President and Vice-Chancellor

My fellow Cape Bretoners,

Quality healthcare is vital for every Nova Scotian.

Yet, longstanding and complex issues within the healthcare system continue, despite ongoing efforts by the government and others to address them. While we can all look to personal experiences within the healthcare system, the time for solutions is now. Cape Breton University believes we can be part of the solution. We can help to ensure quality healthcare is available to our friends, our colleagues, our neighbours and our families for generations to come.

Like so many of the initiatives undertaken by the University, our approach will be unique and innovative – tailored to meet the needs of those living in Cape Breton and other rural and Indigenous communities. Our Strategic Initiatives commit us to bolstering the overall health and development of Cape Breton Island and beyond, and a medical campus will do just that. A medical campus at CBU will provide accessible medical training that will increase the number of primary care physicians serving Cape Breton and rural Nova Scotia. Physicians will be trained in culturally competent care with a focus on preventative and collaborative care models. And, a collaborative health clinic will be created with the capacity to serve up to 10,000 patients. It will provide accessible and equitable healthcare to Nova Scotians here at home.

A medical campus in Cape Breton will contribute to our economic and social well-being because healthy communities are thriving communities. We want to work alongside the government to make this dream a reality, but we also need your support. Please visit www.cbumedcampus.ca to sign your name in support of a CBU Medical Campus.

Together, we can change the future of healthcare in our great province for the better.

Yours very truly,

David C. Dingwall
President and Vice-Chancellor



Focused on the Future

Healthcare is an important priority for each of us. We all want our loved ones to be able to access healthcare where and when it's needed. Multiple efforts are currently underway by the government to address the challenges within the system, including the reconfiguration of our healthcare facilities here in Cape Breton. We know that healthy communities are thriving communities. That's why Cape Breton University is willing to step up and become a partner in improving the health outcomes of Nova Scotians. That is why we are working to bring a medical campus to Cape Breton Island.

Bold Leadership

CBU has a history of bold leadership. In fact, the existence of the University itself has been transformational for our community. CBU's Strategic Plan commits us to bolster the overall health and development of Cape Breton Island, while recognizing the needs of other areas. CBU is ready to lead the way, once again, to bring us to a healthier, more sustainable future.

"Integrating a new medical campus with current science and research programs, including the CBU School of Nursing, will help secure a stable healthcare future for the people of Cape Breton and all of rural Nova Scotia. I strongly support advancing a Cape Breton medical campus as soon as possible."

Dr. Paul MacDonald, MD, FRCP





Cape Breton University Medical Campus

Collaborative Culture

Over the past year, CBU has had discussions and consultations with more than 100 local physicians and more than 80 business and community leaders. Several other universities with established medical schools have also been consulted, as best practices are researched to build a made-in-Cape Breton approach.

As part of CBU's strategic healthcare initiative, five medical seats have been funded at Dalhousie University's Medical School for students from rural Nova Scotia committed to practicing in rural areas. They began their studies in August, 2022 and will begin their residencies in 2026. This is a critical first step in providing more access to primary healthcare in Cape Breton and other rural and indigenous communities.



"I want to help communities and rural areas that are in urgent need of family doctors. Family doctors take care of their patients from birth to death and have long-trusting relationships. It's a unique job, and I want to fill that role and be that doctor our people desperately need."

Ross Porter,
Dalhousie Medical
Student

Unprecedented Opportunities

CBU believes in the importance of culturally competent medical care and is dedicated to making it an integral part of our medical campus and curriculum. CBU's L'nu Health Chair is focused on research and outreach in culturally safe practices. Building on existing resources, CBU will provide students with a valuable educational experience, which will enhance the practice of medicine in the future and improve health outcomes among Indigenous, rural and other communities.



"A medical campus in Cape Breton will ensure its students are exposed to local communities throughout their studies. This will allow these physicians to better understand the needs, resources and issues found within Cape Breton and other rural areas. A medical campus in Cape Breton will also help with retaining doctors as they would have time to discover the benefits of our Island and the amazing people who live here. Overall, this medical campus would benefit the patients, physicians and communities of Cape Breton and beyond."

Dr. Yvonne Libbus, MD, FRCPC

A Sustainable Future

Research indicates that the strongest predictor of rural practice among graduates is lived rural experience. Often, physicians will remain in the area in which they are trained. Prioritizing admittance of rural applicants is an evidence-based way to stand out from most existing medical school admission models. This approach has been proven to increase the percentage of graduates who wish to practice in rural areas.



"I have been impressed by the vision that CBU has for medical education in Cape Breton and the positive impact that a medical school would have for our community. The CBU plan is ambitious, and there is much work to do—but the CBU team has the enthusiasm and dedication to see this through. The potential benefits for rural medicine in Nova Scotia are incalculable."

Dr. Blair Williams, MSc, MD, FRCSC



"Along with many of my colleagues, I am tired of seeing excellent local medical school candidates have to go overseas to get into medical school. Having a CBU medical campus on the Island will enhance the prospects of retaining medical graduates and will provide the best long-term solution to our chronic physician shortage, especially in primary care. I can't wait to see the CBU med campus up and running."

Dr. Michael Gallivan, MD

Innovative Instruction

Newfoundland's Memorial University has above-average production, recruitment and retention of rural physicians. Much of this success has been attributed to their curriculum, which is focused on rural practice and generalist medicine. This provides students with the ability to study and understand local health issues. It is then delivered by professionals familiar with rural practice who can highly influence medical students as they choose their specialty and area in which to practice.

Healthy, Thriving Communities

A medical school in Cape Breton will:

- Increase the number of primary care physicians serving Cape Breton and rural Nova Scotia.
- Train physicians in culturally competent care with a focus on Indigenous and African Nova Scotian communities.
- Create healthier communities through health promotion, preventative and collaborative care models.
- Educate nurse practitioners, social workers and other healthcare professionals to provide more equitable access across the full spectrum of care.
- Focus on interdisciplinary research in areas such as cancer, diabetes, dementia, aging and frailty.
- Create a collaborative clinic that will serve up to 10,000 people.



"The location of a medical campus has an impact on the health of that area. Locally, the Cape Breton Cancer Centre has a mandate for cancer control efforts and solutions including prevention, early treatment and supportive care. All these cancer control efforts need Community Focused medical education and research. A local medical campus will be vital in pushing this mandate forward."

Dr. Ron MacCormick, MD, FRCPC

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

A medical campus at Cape Breton University is a transformational solution to healthcare challenges. We are ready to step up and be partners in a solution for healthcare—because healthy communities are thriving communities.

Join us. Be part of the solution.

Visit cbumedcampus.ca to sign your name and show your support.

Thank you. Wela'lin. Merci.

