



**NLHRA**

Newfoundland and Labrador  
Health Record Association

*Builders and Leaders in  
Health Information  
Management*

# For The Record

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HEALTH RECORD ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUME IX ISSUE IV**

**DECEMBER 2005**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

CHEERS TO A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS  
AND A GREAT NEW YEAR to all members of  
the NLHRA and to their families.

*Ulrike, Rosalie, Philly, Michele & Elizabeth*



### **From the President....**

As this is my first year as President, I expect to face many challenges and opportunities, and in doing so I welcome the opportunity to represent you, our members. I encourage any of you who have incentive and initiative to seriously consider becoming a future Executive member of this association.

The Education Committee held yet another successful AGM and Professional Development day this past September. It was extremely well received by those in attendance.

National Certification continues to be at the forefront of many conversations. I believe provincially we agree it is a great achievement. Congratulations to all those who have successfully challenged as well all the best to those planning to challenge this examination in the future

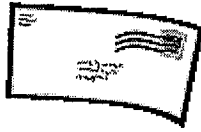
HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

*Elizabeth Hunt  
President*

## *Pause for Thought...*

*"Christmas began in the heart of God.  
It is complete only when it reaches the  
heart of man."*

## NLHRA ADDRESS



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

This is my first turn at the reins as editor of our newsletter, folks, so I welcome any thoughts, comments, bricks or bouquets you may wish to send my way.

I would like to thank those of you who have forwarded articles and committee updates for submission in this edition of the newsletter. With the restructuring of the boards throughout the province, I know it has been a trying time for some of you, and I do appreciate your input. I am hoping that as time progresses, I will find regional representatives to call on periodically for brief updates to include in future editions of the NLHRA newsletter.

Thanks again to all of you for your contributions, and on behalf of the newsletter committee, I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and joyful holiday season and all the very best in the coming New Year.

*Michele Bishop*  
[michelebishop@nl.rogers.ca](mailto:michelebishop@nl.rogers.ca)

### **EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

We had a wonderful Professional Development Day (PDD) in September, we should all be proud of the participation and strong interest our professional association has in this province.

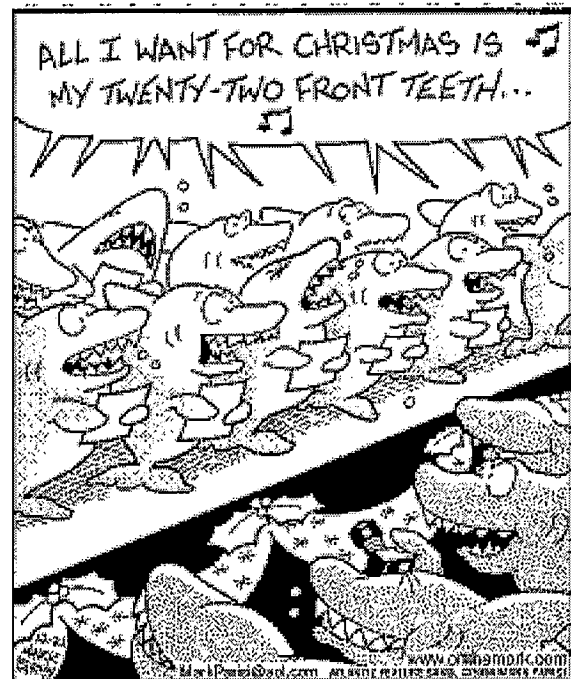
The evaluations indicate that a vast majority thought the topics, speakers and opportunity to learn was a valuable experience. We also received worthwhile suggestions for the 2006 PDD. This is the type of feedback that the committee uses to plan future professional development.

We will be planning our Spring Data Quality Session in the New Year, if you have any suggestions please forward them to any of our committee members.

My personal thank you to those who served on the 2003-05 committee, it is through your volunteer efforts that made education and professional development endeavors a success.

Merry Christmas!

Rosalie Haire,  
Chair, Education Committee



### PROVINCIAL CODING COMMITTEE

The Provincial Coding Committee is chaired by Rosalie Haire and currently consists of 14 members. Committee members are Margie Tait, Barb Genge, Susan House, Philomena O'Grady, Donna Michelin, Elizabeth Hunt, Joan Hillier, Patty Simpson, Cindy Smith, Michele Bishop, Rosalie

Haire, Elaine Hamlyn, Gloria Perera and Janet Forward. Although the health care boards have merged, the structure of the Committee remains unchanged, however, it is expected that our Committee will eventually be affected. Our meetings are held over two days on a quarterly basis at the Newfoundland and Labrador Center for Health Information.

So far this year, the Committee has met in February, June, September and another meeting is scheduled for December 1 & 2, 2005. Our meetings are always interesting and informative. We discuss provincial coding and abstracting issues, edits, errors, changes in the DAD, what's happening at the Center, what's new with CIHI, patient service, day surgeries, review standards, coding queries, definitions, diagnosis typing, mandates and report back to our regions.

At our last PCC meeting Dr. A. Gill, Gynecologist gave us a presentation on Managing Endometriosis and Abnormal Pap Test Results.

Any questions, comments or suggestions – just get in touch with your PCC representative.

Submitted by,  
Patty Simpson

## REGIONAL ROUND-UP

### EASTERN HEALTH

- **Regional Reorganization:** A new management structure has been approved for Health Information Services & Informatics. Manager positions will soon be advertised.
- **Coding & Abstracting:**  
Carbonear General Acute: August 2005 submitted  
Carbonear General SDC: April 2005 submitted\*  
Placentia Health Centre: September 2005 submitted  
A.A. Wilkinson: July 2005 submitted

*\*Problems experienced with Meditech SDC abstract. With the new definition for surgical day care cases, additional cases which are registered as Clinic now require submission and these abstracts were creating errors. Issue has just recently been resolved.*

- **Transcription:**

Extra resources have been allocated to address the dictation backlog as turnaround standards are not being met. Turnaround time for discharge summaries is approximately 6 weeks.

- **Workload Measurement:**

All Health Record and Central Registration staff at Carbonear General have been inserviced on the new workload measurement Order Entry routines. The Health Record Staff at Newhook continue to pilot the workload measurement screens for combined functions. It has not been a smooth process.

- **Nursing Online Documentation:**

All nursing units with the exception of Emergency Department are documenting online.

- **Primary Health Care Project**

The Primary Health Care project at Placentia is progressing as planned. A proposal for funding to cover Video-conferencing has been submitted.

- **Health Information Services Student:**

Carbonear General has one staff member currently enrolled in year two of the program.

- **3M for Former Avalon Region:**

A proposal is being put forward to expand 3M to the former Avalon facilities.

- **CIHI Portal:**

Eastern Health has been designated as a beta testing site for the CIHI Portal. A team from Eastern Health including Ricki Fisher, Evelyn Connors, Marina Fry and Debbie Whalen has been trained in the analyst roles. Consumers within Eastern Health have also been identified and are currently being trained.

The CIHI Portal is a secure, internet-based tool that provides authorized users the ability to view

and analyze CIHI's data holdings, starting with the DAD. Over time, other data holdings and e-reporting services will also be available in the Portal environment.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Whalen*



## LABRADOR-GRENFELL HEALTH

Hello from the North! Transition work is ongoing in the most northerly integrated health authority: Labrador-Grenfell Health. All regional, Directors have been named under the new structure with the exception of a Regional Director of Diagnostics, recruitment here continues. As in all regions around the province, the Directors are being tasked with the job of reviewing and revising their departmental structure to re-evaluate service delivery within a new regional set-up. This is ongoing.

Otherwise, work is continuing on, amidst the confusion that transition can bring. Study into the proposal of a brand new hospital for Labrador City is ongoing – a master plan is being developed in consultation with staff.

This proposal will then be passed on to government for consideration and final decision. At CWJ and LHC, the work of collecting the additional data elements for the Provincial Perinatal Program has almost reached the first year mark – the work to produce and analyze the results has begun, with much assistance and support offered by the Program staff themselves.

Within Records in Labrador-Grenfell, we are undergoing significant changes in two sites – at Captain William Jackman in Lab City, because of staff retirements, the department is undergoing an almost total re-assignment of duties – by January, 2006, and all but one position will be staffed by a new employee. At Curtis Memorial, St. Anthony, the staff is preparing to bid farewell to Hazel Noel, their long-time Records Director. Hazel has served Curtis Hospital her entire career, entering the system as a Transcriptionist some 28-29 years ago. Hazel retires as of December 31<sup>st</sup> and will be missed by all within Records and throughout the hospital generally – she has given strong leadership to department over the years, and has also been a real team player contributing to the overall good service delivery offered at Curtis. She leaves to pursue her own interests and endeavors, not the least of which involve more frequent visits with grand-children (with a new one on the way!). We join to wish Hazel the very best and thank her for her contribution, involvement and leadership over the years. It is anticipated that Hazel's position as manager will be converted to that of a unionized, on-site supervisor.

Best wishes, as well, are extended to Darlene Mackey, on-site supervisor at the Labrador Health Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Darlene has recently gained that coveted title of 'Grand-ma' to a brand new baby girl, Jordan Jillian. Congratulations on the big event!

Very best wishes are extended to all throughout the province as we enter into this holiday season. Enjoy a restful Christmas with family and friends and may 2006 bring both health and prosperity to you all. Happy New Year!

*Susan Bourgeois*



## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

The Centre continues to follow the two projects that have been submitted to the Innovation and Adoption program. Eastern Health is currently preparing the detailed proposal for the Innovation section. The End User Acceptance Strategy group has expressed interest in the proposal submitted by Dr. Robbins and MUN Family Practice. However, they are still in the early planning stages.

The Centre hosted members of the Canada Health Council on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Several presentations were given, providing an overview of the Centre and its accomplishments. Mike Barron, Ann Vivian-Beresford, Brad Ivany and Don MacDonald were among those presenters, and response was very positive.

Registry Integrity Unit: The Task Count was reduced by 49,670 to 171,388 during the month of November, the highest number of task reductions in a one month period to date.

All duplicate reports for each region for April 15, 2004 (seed date), except HCCSJ, have been cleaned and forwarded to the regions for action. The first edit run for 2004-05 data has been completed and with outstanding results. Only 2,602 edits were triggered, which is the lowest since the systems' inception. Edit reports have been sent to the regions for correction. Maintenance of the CDMS is expected to be started soon and will require a considerable amount of time.

### Reports

Research and Development will publish five (5) reports in the next 3 months:

#### Report

*My People Where 2001/02*  
*My People Where 2002/03*  
*My People Where 2003/04*  
*Live Birth Report 2000-2004*  
*Mortality Report 2000-2004*

#### To be published

*December, 2005*  
*December, 2005*  
*December, 2005*  
*January 2006*  
*February 2006*

### HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK (HIN)

Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Network (NPN) - Contract negotiations for development of the Pharmacy Network are ongoing.

All deliverables for the NL/Infoway Phase 1 Pharmacy Planning Project are now complete. Phase 1 deliverables include a detailed work plan for the implementation of the Pharmacy Network and further clarity re change management, benefits evaluation, and systems architecture. A submission for approval to proceed with the Pharmacy Network Project will be made to Cabinet once Infoway and the Centre agree on the funding components and scope of the project.

### Diagnostic Imaging/PACS

Phase 2 of the Provincial DI/PACS Project is ongoing. Western Health went live with its system December 8<sup>th</sup> and Labrador-Grenfell Health has initiated its regional project.

This project will result in a 98% film-less environment in the province as well as create a provincial DI/PACS archive that will be accessible by appropriate providers province-wide.

Merry Christmas!  
 Submitted by: Michele Bishop



*And the Grinch, with his  
Grinch-feet ice cold in  
the snow, stood puzzling  
and puzzling, how could  
it be so? It came  
without ribbons. It  
came without tags. It  
came without packages,  
boxes or bags. And he  
puzzled and puzzled 'till  
his puzzler was sore.*

*Then the Grinch thought of  
something he hadn't before. What if  
Christmas, he thought, doesn't come  
from a store? What if Christmas,  
perhaps, means a little bit more?*

*~Dr. Seuss*

## **CANCER CENTRE**

Within the province, our health care system is currently undergoing major restructuring. Seven former health care organizations, including the Newfoundland Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, have come together as Eastern Health. Staff of the DHBMCC is embracing this time as an opportunity to further enhance education and skills.

We welcome Ms. Pat Pilgrim, COO Cancer, Child/Women's Health & Rehabilitation and Ms. Sharon Smith Director of Cancer Care Program. They share a wealth of experience and knowledge, which is an asset to our program. We look forward to sharing with them our knowledge and expertise in the area of cancer registries.

Hats off to Elizabeth Hunt (Registry) and Theresa Butland (Health Records) as they have earned their CCHRA(C) by successfully challenging the National certification exam. Three more staff members at the Centre are planning to challenge in July 2006 - Good luck to them as well.

Congratulations to Susan Ryan on her appointment as Coordinator of the Provincial Cancer Registries.

The Registry is a crucial element in patient information for research and statistical purposes. E-path electronically sends malignant pathology reports from the hospital laboratories to our database, as we attempt to fulfill the mandate to capture all newly diagnosed cancers in Newfoundland and Labrador. As well all pap smears are captured and recorded on the cytology database. Requests for data retrieval are increasing. Our Certified Tumor Registrars (CTR's) are in the process of implementing an orientation program to be presented to the Medical students, new employees and other key stakeholders. This program will outline the requirements for data requests and will assist people in attaining the information they require.

Good luck and good health to Mrs. Yordis King on her December 2005 Retirement. Yordis worked very diligently for many years in a variety of capacities at the Cancer Centre, her most recent in the cytology registry. We wish you well.

The New Year will see the transition of the current TNM6 Staging method to the new Collaborative Staging System. This will be yet another challenge, but once again isn't healthcare a never ending learning experience.

Cheers to a Wonderful Christmas and Great New Year!

*Elizabeth Hunt*

## **EASTERN HEALTH**

**(Health & Community Services – St. John's)  
Cordage Place Site, St. John's**

The Cordage Place site is now the main site for the Community & Children's, Mental Health & Addictions Programs in the St. John's area. Bev Clarke, former CEO of Health & Community Services – St. John's, is the Chief Operating Officer and is located at the site. The regional director for Child, Youth and Family Services and program directors for Community Children's Services and Community Health and Nursing Services in the St. John's area are also located at the site.

Like everyone else we are restructuring our programs and departments along the new corporate lines. Client Records, which previously was a part of Information Systems, is now part of the new Health Information Services and Informatics Department. Staff is pleased to be a part of a much bigger records department and is looking forward to any opportunities that the new structure may bring.

There are four clerical staff in the department, three of whom support Public Health nursing activities in the St. John's/Mount Pearl/Paradise area. The staff manages the postnatal/children's records, schedule appointments for child health (baby and preschool) clinics, manage immunization records for school age children, including requests for access from clients, other providers and regions, and provide the public with access to records in the Provincial Immunization database. The other staff person manages the continuing care (post acute hospitalization) records and coordinates requests for medical supplies. All staff are classified as Clerk Typist III.

A job sharing agreement was recently approved for one staff position. The position is now staffed with 2 part time staff, each working on a week on-week off basis. This arrangement works well for both the staff and the department.

The CIHI national Home Care Reporting System is starting to generate some interest regionally. Program directors and managers have recently attended workshops on the new system and are enthusiastic about it. If implemented the system, which collects data for report generation and indicator development, through the clinical documentation, would provide information to front-line providers to appropriately manage their client's care, and to management for decision making, program planning and resource utilization.

The clinic scheduling functionality is being enhanced within the Client and Referral Management System (CRMS) to support appointment scheduling in the child health

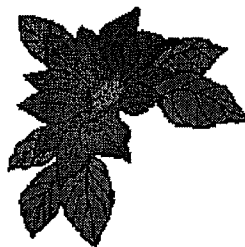
clinic area. When implemented, hopefully within the next year, it will streamline many of the scheduling functions and positively impact workload in the area.

Submitted by: Faye Drodge  
Manager,  
Health Information Services & Informatics

### ***JUST FOR LAUGHS!***

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife....!"



***The only blind person  
at Christmastime is he  
who has not Christmas  
in his heart.***

**~ Helen Keller**

### **2005-2007 NLHRA COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **Public Relations Committee**

Ulrike Fisher  
Sharon Penney  
Mary Cutler  
Eileen Hatch

#### **Policy Standardization Committee**

Debbie Whalen  
Marguerite Foote  
Marina Fry  
Sharon Mullett  
Faye Drodge

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Michele Bishop  
Patty Simpson  
Alicia Trask  
Susan Bourgeois

**Finance/Fund Raising Committee**

Philly O'Grady  
Cindy Smith  
Eileen Hatch  
Karen Squires  
Barb Genge  
Edna Boland

**Education & Professional Development Committee**

Rosalie Haire  
Philly O'Grady  
Susan Forward  
Valerie Knight  
Karen Squires  
Mary Cutler  
Ulrike Fisher  
Eileen Hatch  
Diane Ryan  
Darlene Mackey

**Nominating Committee**

Ulrike Fisher  
Debbie Whalen  
Helen Adams

**Provincial Coding Representative**

Janet Forward

**FROM HEALTH CANADA'S CALENDAR**

<b>Month – December, 2005</b> <i>Christmas Seal Campaign</i>	
<b>Events</b>	
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	World AIDS Day
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	International Day of Disabled Persons
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women in Canada
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Human Rights Day

<b>Month – January, 2006</b> <i>Alzheimer Awareness Month</i>	
<b>Events</b>	
January 15 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Nation Non-Smoking Week
January 18 <sup>th</sup>	Weedless Wednesday
January 27 <sup>th</sup>	Family Literacy Day

<b>Month – February, 2006</b> <i>Heart Month</i>	
<b>Events</b>	
February 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eating Disorders Awareness Week
February 6 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	White Cane Week
February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sexual & Reproductive Health Awareness Day

That's about it folks – We would like to wish you all a very happy holiday season, and to extend to you and your families our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2006.

*Best Wishes  
for a  
Merry Christmas*

*Michele, Patty, Alicia, and Susan  
Newsletter Committee*

