



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**NLMA supports establishment of
psychiatric treatment centre for youth**

For immediate release – October 31, 2011

St. John's, NL –The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) today lent its support for the establishment of a psychiatric treatment centre for youth, to be located in Paradise.

NLMA President Dr. Sandra Luscombe, a developmental pediatrician at the Janeway Children's Hospital in St. John's, said there is a critical shortage of community-based mental health services for children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Our greatest need is for community-based resources staffed with trained professionals to treat these complicated mental health issues," said Dr. Luscombe. "Sending young people who have complex mental health issues out of province, away from their families and their support networks, is not providing them with optimum care. Establishing a treatment centre for this population in the province is one important way to improve care."

Dr. Luscombe acknowledged the controversy surrounding the location of the centre. "It is important for people to become better educated about mental illness," she said. "The stigma that exists around mental health can only be lifted through education and awareness. Hopefully the discussion we are having about the centre will help improve our knowledge about this important issue.

"We should be working together to provide community based mental health services for our children and youth," said Dr. Luscombe. "It takes a village to raise a child. We need all communities to be involved."

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Dr. Luscombe will be available to the media today, Monday, October 31, at 1:30 p.m. at the NLMA office, 164 MacDonald Drive.

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