



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**NLMA applauds Government's decision to subsidize smoking
cessation therapies**

For immediate release – March 28, 2014

St. John's, NL – The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) applauds the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for its commitment outlined in Budget 2014 to allocate \$712,000 to subsidize smoking cessation products for people on low incomes.

“We are very pleased to see that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is acting to improve the lives of its citizens’ by committing to fund smoking cessation therapies for low income smokers,” says NLMA Past-President Dr. Tony Gabriel.

Tobacco use has been linked to all the major causes of death and disease in the province, including heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and Type 2 diabetes. In 2012, Dr. Gabriel released an NLMA position paper calling on government to fund tobacco cessation therapies for low income residents, which could be achieved by increasing provincial tobacco sales tax.

“The NLMA is pleased to see that the announcement in Budget 2014 is in line with our report’s recommendations,” says Dr. Gabriel.

“The use of tobacco cessation therapies can double the odds that a smoker will quit successfully. This will mean huge savings for the province’s health care system, which spends millions each year treating smoking-related illnesses. More importantly, it will help reduce our province’s smoking rate, leading to better health outcomes and healthier lives.”

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Media Contact:

Jonathan Carpenter, ABC
Director, Communications and Public Affairs
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association
Tel: (709) 726-7424, ext. 303
Cell: (709) 691-0928
Email: jcarpenter@nlma.nl.ca

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