

Nova Scotia Priorities Panel on Primary Care

The OurCare Nova Scotia Priorities Panel brought together 34 people living in Nova Scotia, randomly selected to roughly match the province's demographics. They spent approximately 30 hours learning from experts and deliberating together before making recommendations on what a better primary care system should look like. OurCare will be also be conducting Priorities Panels in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba in 2023. For more information, visit OurCare.ca/PrioritiesPanels.

Recommendation Highlights:

Nova Scotia Priorities Panel
At-a-Glance
34 members
16 speakers
30 program hours
25 recommendations

Members' Values

- People-centred
- Accessible
- Empathetic
- Knowledge empowering
- Accountable
- Affordable
- Wellness promoting

To ensure we are working towards a common goal of health care for all Nova Scotians, we call on the provincial government to articulate and publicly share a clearly defined and expressed vision statement for accessible, timely, and equitable primary care.

Patient Health Data

- Extend One Person One Record from provincial hospitals to primary care
- Protect personal health information by appropriately limiting access and use

Sustainable Delivery Models

- Increase the number of community-based collaborative care teams so that every Nova Scotian has access to multidisciplinary care
- Incentivize healthcare professionals to move towards team-based care e.g. by subsidizing overhead costs
- Provide access to virtual and telemedicine that triages and facilitates pathways to appropriate in-person care for strategically located communities
- Improve rural access to medical specialists

Education, Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Professionals

- Advance interprofessional health education in medical school and family medicine residency
- Increase opportunities for health professionals to settle in Nova Scotia, e.g. by bolstering grassroots programs that aim to create communities for new professionals and their families

Financial contribution from



Health
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Max Bell Foundation



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The problems we want solved

Lack of interoperability • Siloed and inefficient use of human resources • Barriers to care • Lack of public education and awareness • Too much short term thinking • Narrow and unresponsive primary care • System lacks empathy •

Recommendation Highlights (cont'd):

Expansive Primary Care

- Expand mobile health units, access to virtual care, affordable high-speed internet, affordable transportation to health services, and home visits
- Increase financial support for individuals experiencing barriers accessing fee-based services and products related to primary care
- Support care professionals to include social prescribing alongside more mainstream forms of healthcare
- Embed social determinants of health in government strategic planning and operations

Public Governance and System Oversight

- Strengthen existing patient advocacy and community representation in the planning, strategy and decision-making of primary care
- Collect metrics on health and wellness best practices tied to expected outcomes and implement a dashboard, similar to One Nova Scotia
- Respond to each recommendation in the OurCare Priorities Panel Report and commit to actionable steps

Informed Public

- Promote citizen participation in healthcare advocacy, for example, as Patient and Family Advisors in Community Health Boards
- Develop an accessible, user-friendly, and culturally inclusive primary health care navigation service



OurCare is a national initiative to engage the public on the future of primary care in Canada. Over 15 months, thousands of people living in Canada told us about their hopes and priorities for creating an equitable and sustainable system that delivers better care for all. OurCare is led by Dr. Tara Kiran, a family physician at St. Michael's Hospital and Scientist at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Unity Health Toronto, and the Fidani Chair of Improvement and Innovation at the University of Toronto. Learn more about the OurCare study: [OurCare.ca](https://www.ourcare.ca).



Halifax OurCare