

Progress in Health Care

December 2015

Mental Health & Addictions

Most of the 33 actions in the mental health and addictions strategy, *Together We Can*, are in progress or complete. This includes:

- Doubling the number of families receiving support for children with anxiety or behavioral issues through expanded telephone coaching
- Adding 20 mental health clinicians in schools as part of the expansion of SchoolsPlus, which serves over 40,000 students in all school boards across the province
- Reducing, almost by half, the waits for non-urgent mental health care for adults
- Adding 34 more gay-straight alliances in schools in the past two years
- Training up to 50 family doctors to support patients with mild to moderate mental health issues
- Funding 37 organizations over three years to provide projects and support in the community
- Launching the Gambling Support Network in March, with online and mobile options, and an awareness campaign to promote it
- Nearly doubling the number of methadone treatment spots, from 75 to 145, and training nearly 200 more physicians in opioid replacement treatment

Physician Recruitment

- Since January 2015, 32 physicians (23 family physicians and 9 specialists) have been recruited and started work in Nova Scotia through DHW programs. These programs include Tuition Relief, Family Medicine bursary, Debt Assistance, and programs for international medical graduates/Canadians Studying Abroad.
- In total 99 physicians are currently in practice in Nova Scotia within these programs; 34 additional physicians are in residency training and have commitments through these programs to provide service in Nova Scotia on completion of their training.
- Twelve physicians (included in above figures) have enrolled in the Tuition Relief program. Nine of these have started work in Nova Scotia; 1 is in residency training; and 2 are in process of finalizing their practice sites and deliverables. One new application is in process.
- Eighty-two (82) physicians have completed their obligations through the indicated DHW programs, and continue to practice in Nova Scotia.