

Highlights of Health Accord Accomplishments – August 2025

- 1. Increased Family Care Teams** – Over 112,500 people connected to 21 Family Care Teams: two further teams in development.
- 2. Decreased Emergency Department Diversions** - major reduction in diversions with Virtual ER visits available at eight sites. Hours decreased from 1432 hours per month in 2022 to 34 hours per month in 2025.
- 3. Increased Primary Health Care Virtual Visits** - over 7,400 visits completed April – June 2025.
- 4. Modernized Ambulance System** - consolidated ground ambulance and dispatch operations June 1, 2024; consolidation of air operations with creation of Clinical Coordination Centre to occur over next 18 months.
- 5. Created Provincial Cardiovascular and Stroke Program** - reduction of cardiac surgery and cardiac catheterization waitlist; increased volume of surgeries and procedures; introduction of provincial ETV for strokes caused by blood clots (EVT reduces disability and dramatically improves patient outcomes); Air transport 2024/25 168 cardiac patients with 24 flights; and provincial visiting and virtual cardiac clinics.
- 6. Increased surgery volumes** - joint replacement surgeries completed exceeded new referrals for the first time in 2024/25 and increased volumes of cataract surgeries completed. Same day orthopedic surgery, with no hospital stay, implemented.
- 7. Created Central Surgery Intake** – implemented orthopaedic and cataract surgery to improve access and reduce wait times. Will expand to all surgical and other diagnostic areas such as imaging.
- 8. Strengthened Cancer Screening Programs** - strengthened breast (increased screening to individuals 40-49 years), colorectal, lung, and HPV (human papillomavirus virus) cancer screening programs, for early detection.
- 9. Establishment second radiation oncology site in Corner Brook** – Two radiation oncologists have been recruited for Corner Brook. Beginning in late August 2025, patients who meet clinical criteria will be able to receive radiation consultations and follow-up appointments at Western Memorial Regional Hospital. On-site radiation treatment for eligible patients is expected to begin in fall 2025.
- 10. Engagement of rural zones** - to initiate structures in NLHS and HCS and a workplan for the sustainability of rural health care.
- 11. Focused on Healthy Aging and Seniors' Well-being** – many initiatives such as dementia and age friendly initiatives and campaigns; as of July 2025, 5,662, seniors took advantage of the Age Well at Home Grant and over 1,350 seniors used the Home Repair or Modification program in 2024/25.
- 12. Introduced New Vaccines for Seniors** - including the shingles vaccine, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) and pneumococcal.
- 13. Launched Acute Care Services for Seniors** - Acute Care of Elderly (ACE) Units opened at Western Memorial June 2024 and St. Clare's June 2025, and Restorative Care Unit opened at the Miller Centre May 2025. Increased the number of geriatricians practicing in the province and a geriatrician training program at the Faculty of Medicine is in the planning stages.
- 14. Strengthened Integration and Services for Seniors Across the Care Continuum** - with increased dementia, palliative and home care worker training, new community services with Short Stay in Personal Care Homes (PCHs), Adult Day Programs, Enhanced Dementia Care in PCHs and Rehabilitation and Restorative Care in PCHs and continued work on implementation of LTC, PCH and Community Support Program reviews.
- 15. Continued Implementation toward new Health Information System** - to integrate provincially health care across community, acute care, and long-term care. A once in a generation project, the system will put further health information directly in the patients access and enable patients to directly book health care appointments amongst numerous other benefits. Infrastructure to support the project will enhance digital connectivity province wide.
- 16. Increased patient access on MyHealthNL** - 143,993 people have initiated access and 49,020 people have downloaded the app. This system provides direct access to elements of the patient's health record and test results as well as self-referral to breast and colon cancer screening programs.
- 17. Increased Training Seats for Health Care Professionals in NL Institutions** - including physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and paramedicine. This September the Faculty of Medicine will offer 90 undergraduate training seats, 84 of which are reserved for NL students. Additionally, there has been the introduction nine new resident placements.
- 18. Reduction in key health professional vacancy numbers** - registered nurses from peak vacancies of 695 Oct 2022 to 280 April 2025; nurse practitioners from peak of 92 April 2024 to 62 April 2025; licensed practical nurse from peak of 382 Oct 2023 to 91 April 2025; and personal care attendant from peak of 380 April 2021 to 61 April 2025.
- 19. Increase in physicians licensed in NL** – 7 per cent increase from 1,655 in 2021 to 1,771 in 2024 (exclusive of Atlantic licenses).