Response to NFL /Lab agreement with the federal government:

JoAnn and I are concerned about the growth of private surgical clinics and the privatization of essential health care services in our own province of BC and the unfettered violations of the Canada Health Act in Quebec and Saskatchewan.

This agreement seems to indicate that home and continuing care are medically necessary services (like primary care and hospital care are in the Canada Health Act) but does not seem to exclude private provision of the new federal home care and mental health $$ and does not mention the need to conform to the provisions of the Canada Health Act.  Without some further restrictions, this new funding could be a bonanza for provincial, national, and international private providers.

**We propose that NPF join with other partners with similar concerns about health care privatization such as the Canadian Health Coalition to advocate on the issue and to get clarification from the governments involved about their intentions.**

**We have learned from the inability of the Health Council of Canada to enforce the provincial reporting provisions of the Health Accord in the 2000s that we need national standards and greater accountability by the provinces which should be given deadlines for agreeing on indicators and very strong penalties for not reporting regularly and in detail on how the funding is spent.**

Whatever the ongoing federal/ provincial turf/power struggles, Canadians who need access to better health care should be able to benefit directly from the new federal government funding for home care and mental health. There are good reasons why these issues have been identified as priorities for action.

We don't like the way that the funding rolls out so that larger instalments come at the end of the 10 years.

That been said, JoAnn and I were both agreeably surprised about the general approach and the content of the Newfoundland/ Labrador government’s plan of action for expanded quality home care provision.

Kathleen Jamieson, Chair

NPF Health Committee