



## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **1. What is the NL SUPPORT Unit?**

We support researchers in Newfoundland and Labrador who are trying to make our healthcare system better for everyone. We work towards this goal by encouraging researchers to involve people just like you in their work as equal partners.

### **2. What's the Patient Advisory Council?**

Our Patient Advisory Council is a group of people from across the province who help us make decisions about the work that we do. They help us decide which projects we should do as a Unit and some of the Council members are also members of research teams. Our Council currently has 16 members and we are looking for 4 young adults to join the group.

### **3. Who can be a member of the Council?**

We are looking for young adults between the ages of 19 and 30 to join our Council. Anyone who has been a patient or who has looked after family or friends who needed care can help. You don't need any work or volunteer experience, just a willingness to share your opinions in a respectful environment.

### **4. What will I be asked to do?**

Here are some examples of how you can help:

- Help researchers and health professionals to better understand the views of patients.
- Share your thoughts on how we can involve more youth in health research.
- Help us spread the word about what the researchers discover.
- Help us create materials, such as flyers, posters, and questionnaires.
- Tell us which research projects you think we should support with funding. This is *optional*.
- You may choose to join a research team. This is also *optional*.

### **5. What's in this for me?**

- You WILL make a difference.
- You will meet new people with similar interests and experiences.
- This is great experience to add to your resume.

- We can offer you free training opportunities.
- We'll take care of your travel and accommodation costs (if you don't live in St. John's).

#### **6. How much will I get paid?**

- You can receive \$200 at the end of each year for your time and input. This is a one-time appreciation for your preparation, attendance and follow-up activities. You have to attend at least 3 out of 4 yearly Council meetings.
- If you choose to join other teams or committees, you may receive an additional appreciation depending on the level of time and complexity of the opportunity.

#### **7. How much time will I be expected to give to the Council?**

- The Council meets 4 times per year: 2 meetings are in-person in St. John's and 2 are held online with videoconferencing technology, which we will help you set-up.
- The Council meetings are typically 2 to 4 hours long.
- We also ask that you attend one orientation session (about 2 hours long).
- We hope that you attend our annual Health for All Festival and/or Scientific Day events in the fall.
- We ask that, if possible, you commit to join the Council for at least 1 year.

#### **8. How do I apply?**

- If you're interested in learning more about the Council and possibly becoming a member, please contact Eva Vat:
  - [eva.vat@med.mun.ca](mailto:eva.vat@med.mun.ca)
  - 709-864-6654
- Eva will invite you to have a quick chat about your interests and will answer any questions you may have.

#### **9. When's the application deadline?**

- The deadline to get in touch with Eva is Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

#### **10. What happens next if I join the Council?**

- If you join the Council, you'll be asked to attend an orientation session over pizza during the evening of Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.
- Your first Council meeting is an in-person meeting in St. John's on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12:00 – 4:00 pm.
- NL SUPPORT is hosting a special event, the Health for All Festival, on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. We hope that you will have time to pop by the Festival. This will give you a great introduction to the types of health research happening in our province.

If you already have plans for November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> but wish to join the Council, then please let us know. We will do our best to make our (future) meetings work with your schedule.