

BURIN PENINSULA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



Eastern
Health

Purpose

Eastern Health partnered with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Office of Communication and Public Engagement from May 1 – 3, 2017 to host a series of community consultations on Primary Health Care on the Burin Peninsula. Four sessions were held in Grand Bank, St. Lawrence, Burin and St. Bernard's. The purpose of the sessions was to share information about health status of residents in the area, to engage participants in a discussion regarding health and together to search for concrete solutions to help transform primary health care on the Burin Peninsula.

Participants

A total of 171 residents participated in the process either by attending a session in person (144) or by completing an online survey (27). There were 52 participants in Burin, 47 in St. Lawrence, 26 participants in Grand Bank, and 19 in St. Bernard's. Of the 27 residents who completed the online survey, 60 per cent were from the Burin area and 15 per cent from the Placentia West Clinic area.

The majority of participants were between 45-54 years of age (40-50 per cent) with the exception of St. Lawrence where the majority (35 per cent) were over 65 years of age. Participants in the sessions included representatives from community groups and organizations such as ambulance operators, municipalities, fire departments, schools, churches and clergy, youth and seniors groups, sports and recreation committees and Eastern Health employees.

Findings

The top three concerns in the communities/region identified by participants during the consultation process were:

1. Mental Health
2. Cancer
3. Addictions

A summary of survey responses was prepared from the group discussions at each session and the responses are reflected below.

What aspects of the Primary Healthcare System are working well in your community/region?

- Lots of people and groups working together
- Lots of community resources (i.e. YMCA, Grace Sparkes House, Sacred Heart Family Aid, seniors and youth groups, church groups, recreation committees, etc.)
- Dedicated and excellent volunteers
- There have been a variety of public education sessions held in some areas
- There are a variety of Eastern Health programs and services offered throughout the region.

BURIN PENINSULA PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INITIATIVE: COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

What aspects of the Primary Healthcare System are NOT working so well in your community/region?

- Need for more Mental Health and Addictions resources
- Need for more information regarding Eastern Health programs and services, as well, there is a general lack of awareness regarding available community resources and services in the region
- Need to strengthen relationships between Eastern Health and community groups and organizations
- Need to strengthen recruitment and retention efforts for physicians and other health-care providers
- Need to enhance access to physicians in family practice and some specialists' services (i.e. psychiatry), and improve wait times for other services (i.e. Mental Health)
- Need to focus more on health promotion and illness prevention.

What would make your community a healthier place to live?

- Enhanced education and awareness related to health issues, such as Advanced Care Planning, Women's Wellness, mental health, seniors care, and home supports.
- Enhanced health care resources
- Enhanced role of community groups and organizations (municipalities, schools, churches, seniors, youth, etc.)
- Enhanced community resources especially to promote and support healthy living
- Enhanced communication and collaboration among all stakeholders.

Eastern Health takes the concerns raised by the residents very seriously, and will develop an action plan to address the issues that have been identified. In the coming months, it will establish a Community Advisory Committee and looks forward to working with community representatives to identify solutions aimed at transforming primary health care on the Burin Peninsula. In the meantime, residents have requested a list of services currently provided in the area, and with that in mind, we have developed a [Health Services Directory \(PDF\)](#) for your use.