Travelling Fellowship Program

Eligibility Criteria:

Policy Statement:

The program provides funding at the negotiated host provincial resident salary scales to attract Physicians interested in specialty post-graduate programs not offered at Memorial University of Newfoundland and who commit to practice in designated areas of need in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. To be eligible an Applicant must:
   - be applying for a training program recognized by the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada;
   - have sought a regular Ministry of Health funded position in the specialty/sub-specialty program in the CaRMS match and been unsuccessful, while possessing qualifications at least equivalent to that expected for a Ministry funded position;
   - be accepted to a specialty training program in a field of recognized need in the Province and not available at Memorial University;
   - provide a letter of support from the Director of the program being sought, indicating acceptance to the program;
   - submit a letter of commitment from a Regional Health Board indicating the need and plans for the specialty/sub-specialty services.
2. An applicant must:
   - commit to practice for one year return in service for each annual incentive received;
   - negotiate with a Regional Integrated Health Authority and commit to provide in-patient and institutional on-call coverage, reflective of the need of the Authority;
   - commence full-time clinical practice in a permanent capacity, no later than one month after being eligible for licensure.

Selection:

Reflective of the needs of the Province at the time prioritization of candidates will take into consideration:

- The number of years of previous practice within the province of the applicant;
- The number of years of funding required;
- Level of demonstrated commitment to return to the province

Application process:

1. The Department of Health and Community Services will provide an application form requesting all the necessary information.
2. Applications may be submitted at **any time** for consideration at the next committee meeting. The application must include:
   - a copy of Medical School Diploma;
   - a current (dated within 6 weeks) Certificate of Good Standing as a licensed physician in a Canadian Province or Country of Practice (including NL);
   - a letter from the Director of the program being sought indicating acceptance to the program;
   - a letter of commitment must be received from the Regional Integrated Health Authority indicating the need for the specialty /subspecialty following completion of training;
   - two confidential reference letters sent directly to the Physician Services Division, Department of Health and Community Services.

All applications are reviewed and considered through the committee. **The committee reserves the right to review applications at any time during the calendar year where extenuating circumstances are presented.**

When Awarded:

- All applicants shall be notified of receipt of award within eight (8) weeks of application.
- The number of applicants approved for award in any one year is limited to the available funds in the Program budget.
- The applicant shall be notified that the funding is limited to the resident salary scale of the institution attended and does not cover any tuition, registration, application or other fees from the institution they are attending.
- The applicant must sign an agreement with the Minister of the Department of Health and Community Services (or their designate) stating that they will work in an area designated as “in need” at the time of graduation in either a fee for service or salaried capacity.
- The Department will provide the recipient with a list of the “areas of need” upon request by the recipient.
- All approved applicants must obtain appropriate hospital privileges in consultation with the regional health care boards responsible for medical services in the designated area of need.

- The Department will provide the Newfoundland Medical Board with a copy of the Agreement, monitor the recipient's return of service, and authorize the subsequent release of a Letter of Good Standing, if requested, once all the terms and conditions of the Agreement have been satisfied;
- The Department will calculate and collect all defaulted bursaries as per the terms of the signed agreement.

Default of Return in Service Awards:

- The Recipient shall repay the Department of Health and Community Services, through the Health Care Corporation of St. John's, the amount awarded with accrued interest calculated from the date of the award at a rate of interest equivalent to the Bank of Canada Prime Rate in effect on the date of the default plus two percent (2%).
- Where the Recipient partially completes the return in service obligation to practice in the designated area of need, the amount to be repaid to the Department of Health and Community Services shall be prorated according to the number of months the Recipient practices in the designated area of need.