

Each of the Atlantic Provinces expends less of its provincial government health expenditures on physician services than the national average (Table 1), but each has concerns about the number, mix, and distribution of physicians (4). Three of the provinces have had difficulty in encouraging physicians to locate in underserved areas, while having too many physicians in certain overserved, normally urban, areas. The overall number of physicians are felt to be too few in New Brunswick and Newfoundland, too many in Nova Scotia and about right in Prince Edward Island. Thus, even though the goals of the plans are similar and many of the methods are common across plans, the starting point varies by province.

New Brunswick

New Brunswick is the only officially bilingual province in Canada, with its population of 754,000 being approximately 65 percent Anglophone and 35 percent Francophone. The province, which is generally rural outside the major cities of Saint John, Moncton, and Fredericton, the capital, has over 50 percent of its population in rural areas.

On April 1, 1992, New Brunswick implemented major health system reforms. To regionalize the governance of