

**PHYSICIAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ATLANTIC CANADA:
PROGRAMS IN NEW BRUNSWICK, NEWFOUNDLAND, NOVA SCOTIA AND
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

The management of physician resources has become a reality in a growing number of Canadian provinces. The reasons for managing physician resources are essentially the same in the different provinces, the number of physicians are increasing at faster rate than the population, while at the same time a maldistribution of physician resources, both by specialty and geographically, continues. The provinces faced with rising health care costs, declining federal transfer payments, and often inefficient health care systems have been forced to take action. The management of physician resources is one tool chosen to manage a segment of the health system which accounts for a significant portion of health expenditures and influences costs in an even greater part of the health system.

This paper describes and compares physician resource management plans which have been implemented in the Atlantic Provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The initiatives, which are in various stages of maturity, generally have common goals for managing physician resources. The plans have many traits in common, but also have distinct differences which tend to reflect the unique political and geographic characteristics of each province.