

Supporting Rural Health Systems through Family Practice Anesthesia

by Ruth Wilson MD CCFP FCFP; Victor Ng MD CCFP(EM) MHPE; Gavin Parker MD CCFP; Anthony Wiens MD CCFP

Family physicians have a proud history of supporting rural hospitals and **enhancing rural health care** delivery in communities across Canada. After reading the recent **CBC article** by Mr. Michael Gorman, we acknowledge the need to improve the capacity of health care services in rural Nova Scotia and specifically in the domain of anesthesia for surgical procedures and obstetrics in rural and underserved communities.

Through the **Family Medicine Professional Profile** the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) outlines the many roles family physicians provide for their communities. *Community adaptiveness* is a concept describing family doctors' practices that change based on the needs of their communities. Mr. Gorman's article describes several Nova Scotia communities that need anesthetic services, and this is a care gap that family physicians can fill.

The CFPC upholds a rigorous standard for its certified members including a Certificate of Added Competence in Family Practice Anesthesia. It is awarded to members who have demonstrated competence or have undergone an accredited university residency training program to enhance their competence in this area.

Access to health care services continues to be a barrier for many Canadians and particularly for those living in rural areas. Family physicians provide generalist care over a variety of clinical domains, including anesthesia, while working collaboratively with other members of health care teams. We would like to express our support for family practice anesthesiologists who are competent to provide quality care and able to enhance access to care closer to home for rural Nova Scotians.

References

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