



# Nova Scotia.

# More than

# Medicine.+

**Thank you for your interest in bringing your talent and expertise to Nova Scotia.**

In the following pages, you will learn what practicing medicine in Nova Scotia looks like.

If you have any questions, or need more information, please contact your recruitment navigator **Kim**. She will be happy to work with you to ensure your move to Nova Scotia is as seamless as possible.



**902-473-3361**

[physicianrecruit@nshealth.ca](mailto:physicianrecruit@nshealth.ca)





## About Nova Scotia Health Authority

Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) operates hospitals, health centres, and community-based programs across the province. Our team includes employees, physicians, researchers, and volunteers who work together to provide a full range of health care services.



## About Nova Scotia

Located on the east coast of Canada, Nova Scotia offers four seasons' worth of adventure. Hike soaring seaside cliffs, experience fine dining and culture on bustling city streets, and be the type of physician you truly want to be. Nova Scotia is big enough to provide endless opportunities, but small enough to make those opportunities your own. Become a key part of the community—both professionally and personally—wherever you decide to live.

Whether you buy a home in a vibrant city or town, or on the tranquil coastline, life in Nova Scotia is an indulgence you can afford. In 2018, the average home price in Halifax was \$311,841, granting the city one of the lowest costs of living in Canada. Yes, your money simply goes further here, but more importantly, it buys you a lifestyle you just won't find anywhere else in the country.



**“The cost of living here compared to where some of my friends and colleagues are can't be beat.”**

– Dr. Ryan Sommers,  
Truro, Northern Zone

## Don't take our word for it—come see for yourself!

It's understandable that you may want to visit Nova Scotia before committing to relocating. Our site visit program reimburses you (and your partner) for a one-time visit to a potential practice site. You must be eligible for a license in Nova Scotia and work with a recruiter to obtain approval from the Nova Scotia Health Authority prior to your visit.



Learn more about living and working in Nova Scotia

[novascotiabusiness.com/livehere](https://novascotiabusiness.com/livehere)



## Dr. Simon Bonnington

Family Physician

Immigrated  
**4,566 km**  
from England



to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

# “When a physician makes the move to enter practice in Nova Scotia, the possibilities are endless”

Fate—and the vision of a looming mid-life crisis—brought Dr. Simon Bonnington, his wife, and two children to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia nearly a decade ago.

Dr. Bonnington graduated from Bristol University (1990) and completed his Family Medicine residency in South West England (1995) prior to immigrating to Nova Scotia in 2010. His pathway from UK medicine predated the newly established physician stream, which has been created to reduce barriers for physicians. He calls his conviction to relocate pure destiny.

Working in the Collaborative Practice in Annapolis Royal in rural Nova Scotia, Dr. Bonnington enjoys seeing how the small community he has embraced as his home can benefit from the health care opportunities provided by members of his practice group. The collaborative practice physicians and administration work with “an amazing patient-group” whose expectations for health care delivery are generally reasonable and well balanced.

The beauty of Nova Scotia, according to Dr. Bonnington, is that you are able to be more relaxed about life. Their small but vibrantly active

community provides an abundance of art and culture, and many diverse outdoor recreational activities like hiking, fishing, and soccer.

Bonnington is well known in his community for his variety of interests and community service. The family has been heavily involved in the creation of the province’s second largest indoor rock climbing facility at the local gym, and he maintains an active life outside of work that ranges from volunteer service at the local botanical garden to both directing and performing on stage with the local acting troupe. The couple also enjoy their location in the province and its proximity to so many great local farms and vineyards.

“There is no time of year where there is nothing to do. Winter is a valuable season here, unlike in the UK where the drab, damp, grey weather tends to deter outdoor activities.”

At the end of the day, he believes he and fellow physicians are paid to do a good job properly.

“When a physician makes the move to enter practice in Nova Scotia, the possibilities are endless.”



**Dr. Greg Hirsch**

Cardiac Surgeon

Immigrated  
**1,063.3 km**  
from Boston



to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

**“After 25 years of practice, I am still absolutely thrilled to come to work every day.”**

Originally from Boston, MA, Dr. Greg Hirsch has called Nova Scotia home since 1995. He attended medical school at Mount Sinai University in New York City and completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. With three years of research training at Harvard Medical School, Dr. Hirsch cultivated his passion for academics and research as a cardiac surgeon and later accepted an offer to work in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

“I was relieved of all my anxieties during the immigration process because I knew Nova Scotia was willing and able to help me start my practice.” He had been working in a tight job market for physicians with academic training, but was able to establish his laboratory and research almost immediately after arriving in Canada. As a cardiac surgeon in the province of Nova Scotia, he has the opportunity to apply his research training, develop his skills, and have a boundary-spanning career by continuing his research in cardiac health services.

For Dr. Hirsch, the best part about working as a physician in Nova Scotia is that everyone has access to care. “I revel in the fact that I live in a place where I am able to practice socialized medicine.” When a physician practices medicine in a place like Halifax, they are able to identify the need and, in turn, see the impact. With the help of reliable colleagues, Dr. Hirsch provides high-quality care to his community. “I consider my colleagues my friends. All the clinicians I interact with have each other’s backs.”

He says the multicultural nature of Halifax is brilliantly refreshing and provided the perfect dynamic environment in which to raise his five children.



In Nova Scotia, families have the choice between high-quality private and public schools as well as Canadian universities at a fraction of the cost of other countries. Plus, regardless where in the country his children study, the trip home is accessible thanks to the Halifax International Airport.

Dr. Hirsch is grateful for the accessibility and affordability of the city—he can bike to work in 18 minutes, whereas his friends in larger cosmopolitan areas spend 45 minutes in traffic. He states that whether you want an urban home or a waterfront property, it is possible in Nova Scotia. “We live in a beautiful, relatively unspoiled province where it takes no time to get outside.” His family takes advantage of this by going on hikes to Ski Wentworth to enjoy the view of the Northumberland Strait. They also spend time at their cottage in Chester where they sail and paddle board.

## “The quality of life here is incomparable.”

“After 25 years of practice, I am still absolutely thrilled to come to work every day. There is no hierarchy here. From the clinical staff, to volunteers, to janitorial staff, everyone is respected and important. The person cleaning the floors is as important as the cardiac surgeon. That makes it a really cool place to work.”





## Dr. Michel Chiasson

Family Physician

Moved  
**1,445 km**  
from Montreal



to Cheticamp, Nova Scotia

# “There are lots of wonderful communities that are waiting to welcome and embrace physicians.”

If you ask Cheticamp’s “town doctor”, Dr. Michel Chiasson his favourite part about working and living as a physician in Nova Scotia, his reply will be lengthy.

After attending medical school and completing residency at Dalhousie University, Dr. Chiasson moved to Montreal before joining a collaborative practice in rural Nova Scotia. He says the scope of practice that a rural environment offers a physician is ideal for broadening their experience.

“None of our physicians are isolated. There is a lot of opportunity to work with teams.”

The degree of collaboration between his colleagues and specialists, nurses, and other health care providers in a variety of different places makes for a rewarding career. “Just because I’m a rural doctor, doesn’t mean that’s my only hat.” He believes that physicians can still be involved provincially, nationally, academically,

in research, and in many other ways—and still be a country doctor. Dr. Chiasson’s involvement with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia and with Doctors Nova Scotia is evidence of this.

When he isn’t working at his practice or providing care in his region, you can find Dr. Chiasson, his wife, and his three children embracing small town luxuries. Dirt-biking, paddle-boarding, having bonfires on the nearby beach, and eating delicious east coast seafood are some of the many ways his family enjoys their safe community. They are also avid travellers and he insists that he never feels “stuck” in their beloved corner of Nova Scotia.

“For my family, living in the country allows me to give them the best of both worlds.”



## We're closer than you think.

Nova Scotia is a short drive or plane ride away from other major centres in Canada and the United States.

### Montreal

✈️ 1 hour 45 minutes  
🚗 11 hours 50 minutes

### Toronto

✈️ 2 hours 20 minutes  
🚗 17 hours 30 minutes

### London

✈️ 5 hours 50 minutes

### Paris

✈️ 6 hours 5 minutes

### Boston

✈️ 1 hour 30 minutes  
🚗 10 hours 30 minutes

### New York

✈️ 2 hours 5 minutes  
🚗 13 hours 40 minutes

### Orlando

✈️ 3 hours 55 minutes  
🚗 28 hours 45 minutes

### Punta Cana

✈️ 4 hours 25 minutes



## Practice Opportunities

We have full-time practice and locum opportunities available throughout the province in both family practice settings and specialties. We also offer a range of incentive programs to help you get settled.

## Licensing

You may be able to obtain a license to practice in Canada if you graduated from an eligible medical school and have training and certification from the US, Ireland, United Kingdom, or Australia. If you have adequate practice experience in your host country, you may also be exempt from further licensure examinations. First, you must confirm that you are license eligible by contacting the Nova Scotia College of Physicians and Surgeons. If you are not eligible for a license, you may be interested in Practice Ready Assessment, an alternative pathway towards licensure for family physicians. Find more info here: [www.nsprap.com](http://www.nsprap.com) or [cpsns.ns.ca](http://cpsns.ns.ca).

### Did You Know?

Experienced family physicians from the US/UK/Ireland have a great pathway to licensure with our province that may even include exam exemption. For more information about your license **[contact Kim](#)**.

## World-class Academic and Research Opportunities

Nova Scotia's 10 universities and many colleges have created a well-educated population, a youthful entrepreneurial spirit, and a depth of opportunity for professionals of every stripe. Balanced with growing tech and creative sectors, Nova Scotia is a hub for medicine, boasting both the largest medical school and the largest hospital in Atlantic Canada. Here, rewarding opportunity is as close as the sea.

To learn more contact Kim or visit [recruitment.nshealth.ca/about/academic-and-research-opportunities](http://recruitment.nshealth.ca/about/academic-and-research-opportunities).

## Other Incentive and Support Programs

Nova Scotia offers a variety of generous incentive programs including:

### Relocation allowance program

If you have an accepted offer for work in Nova Scotia, you may be eligible for a relocation allowance of up to **\$10,000**.

### Debt assistance program

If you choose to practice as a specialist or family physician in Nova Scotia, you could be eligible to receive between **\$20,000–\$45,000** in debt-assistance for up to three years. Eligible applicants include new medical school graduates in family practice or designated specialties, graduates of medical schools in Atlantic Canada, and Nova Scotia residents graduating from other Canadian medical schools.



### Return of service family medicine bursary program

- Family Medicine residents could receive a **\$60,000** bursary for establishing a practice in Nova Scotia. The return of service is for a three-year period in the agreed upon location.

### Bursary payments include:

- **\$10,000** on signing the return of service agreement and on provision of verification of a CARMS/NRMP match in a family medicine residency training program.
- **\$20,000** on signing agreement regarding practice location and deliverables.
- **\$30,000** on starting to practice in Nova Scotia in the agreed upon location.
- Eligible residents include: Family Medicine residents in Canadian programs, including those enrolled in PGY3 in Emergency Medicine (CFPC Emergency Medicine Program); Nova Scotians doing their Family Medicine residency in accredited programs in the U.S.; and fourth-year medical students from Nova Scotia. Note, residents/medical students with pre-existing return of service agreements/obligations are not eligible to apply.

### Physician Tuition Relief Program

- Graduates of Canadian medical schools may receive reimbursement for the tuition they paid during medical school up to a maximum of **\$120,000**. International medical graduates may receive reimbursement up to the maximum tuition level they would have paid at a Canadian medical school. Physicians/residents are eligible if they will be

practicing in Nova Scotia where an approved vacancy is available and where deliverables have been agreed to. All physicians/residents (family physicians and specialists; graduates from both Canadian and international medical schools) are eligible to apply. You can apply during residency, or if currently practicing outside of Nova Scotia, during the first seven years of practice after completing residency training.



For details on these programs and current practice opportunities, please contact: [physicianrecruit@nshealth.ca](mailto:physicianrecruit@nshealth.ca).



**“I have a maximum six minute drive to work. This means I can teach a class at the gym in between shifts, or check on my children if they are home sick.”**

– Dr. Tania Sullivan,  
Antigonish, Eastern Zone



Moved **891 km** from Newfoundland to Antigonish, Nova Scotia

**The Physician Stream** assists Nova Scotia’s public health authorities—the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) and the Izaak Walton Killam Health Centre (IWK)—to hire general practitioners, family physicians, and specialist physicians to work in Nova Scotia. The stream helps the NSHA and IWK to recruit and retain physicians with the required skills for positions that they have been unable to fill with a permanent resident or Canadian citizen.

## Eligibility

The Physician Stream is only open to general practitioners and family physicians (NOC 3112) and specialist physicians (NOC 3111) with signed, approved opportunities with the Nova Scotia Health Authority or the IWK Health Centre.

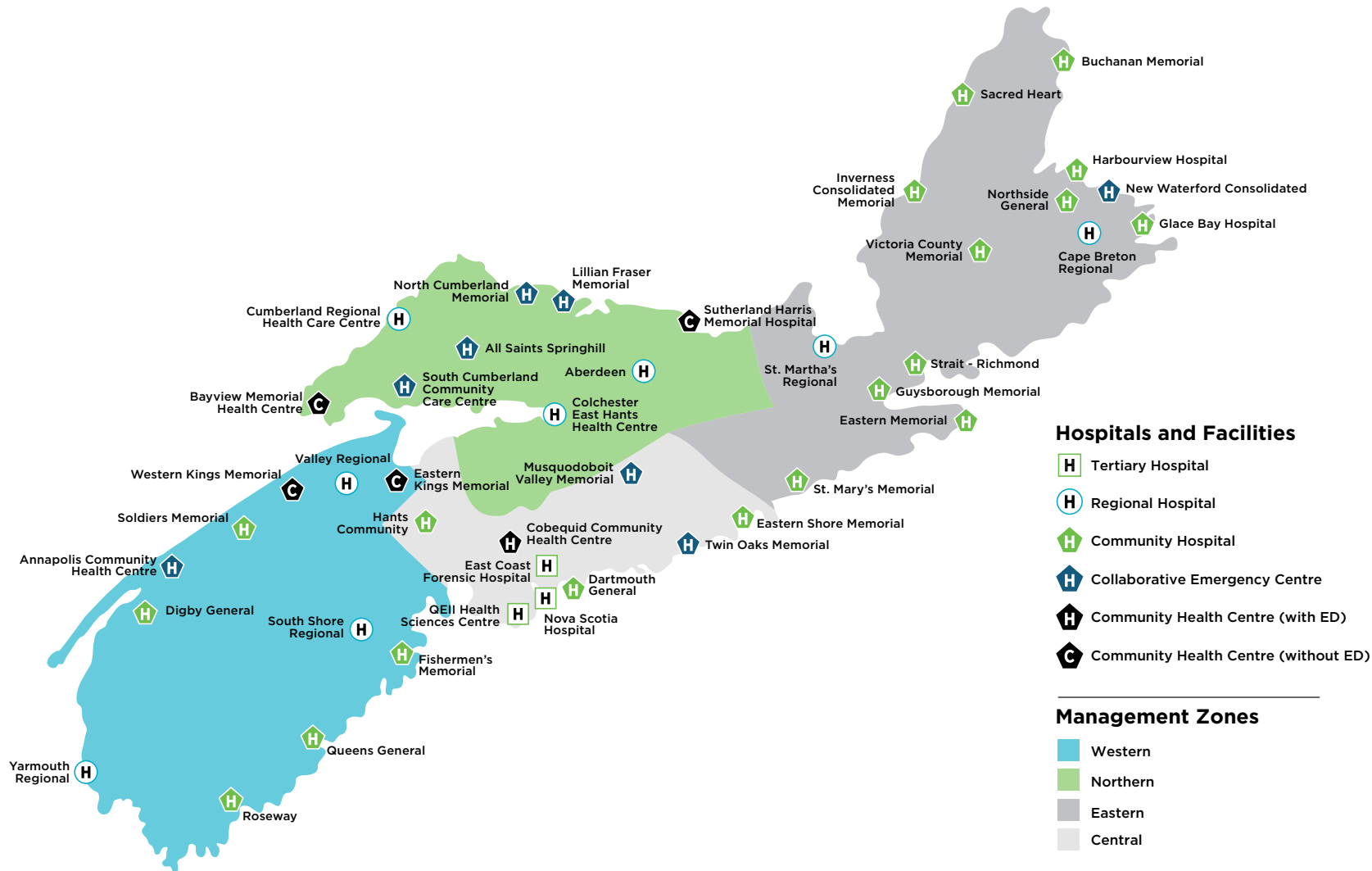
**The approved opportunity must be on official NSHA or IWK letterhead and must:**

- Be signed and dated by a person authorized to hire physicians at the NSHA or IWK
- Be signed and dated by the applicant who is accepting the opportunity
- Indicate eligibility for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS
- Indicate that the applicant is eligible to apply for privileges and credentials with NSHA and the IWK


**For more information contact [Kim](#).**







This map includes hospitals and health centres only and does not reflect all buildings in which NSHA services are provided. MCO028-02-16


 Explore current opportunities today.  
[recruitment.nshealth.ca/opportunities](https://recruitment.nshealth.ca/opportunities)



*nova scotia*  
health authority