

## Preface and Acknowledgments

Pandemics of influenza occur at regular intervals, approximately two or three times a century. The next pandemic is inevitable, although its timing and severity remain unpredictable. Canadian federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) officials have increased public health awareness and planning activities to prepare for this threat. International initiatives led by the World Health Organization (WHO) have increased surveillance and global pandemic planning.

The Department of Health and Community Services (The Department) of Newfoundland and Labrador drafted its first pandemic influenza planning document in 2001. Similar to other pandemic influenza plans this is a living document that will be updated periodically to reflect the outcomes of the pandemic working groups.

This planning tool will guide the health sector both at the provincial and community levels to enhance awareness, planning and response. It references the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan<sup>1</sup> which reflects the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) collaboration on a consistent pan-Canadian approach to planning and response. The annexes of the Canadian plan contain the details necessary for provinces and regions to prepare for and operationalize the response during a pandemic. This is referenced but not duplicated in the provincial planning document.

This Newfoundland and Labrador influenza planning document for the health sector was developed through a collaborative and consultative process including representatives of several Government Departments (including Fire and Emergency Services Newfoundland and Labrador), and the Regional Health Authorities, with input from experts and references from other pandemic planning documents.

This material is provided for clarification of respective roles and responsibilities, general information purposes and as a guideline to support consistent and comprehensive planning,

preparedness, response and recovery for the health sector.

The Department wishes to thank the many individuals who have contributed to this planning effort. These individuals represent:

Department of Health and Community Services  
Eastern Regional Health Authority  
Central Regional Health Authority  
Western Regional Health Authority  
Labrador/Grenfell Regional Health Authority  
Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment  
Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Fire and Emergency Services Newfoundland and Labrador

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- Public Health Agency of Canada, Government of Canada
- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Government of Ontario
- Ministry of Health, Government of British Columbia

for their permission to utilize their respective pandemic plans for general and specific reference in the preparation of this document.