

Agenda Item# 9

2026 AGM Motion

Section of Public Health

The Annual Meeting is being asked to approve a new **Section of Public Health**.

Public health concerns are increasingly relevant to clinical practice in Nova Scotia. Addressing communicable diseases, emergency preparedness, harm reduction, health equity, environmental health, and the effects of social and economic conditions requires coordinated physician engagement at the population level. Although many DNS members contribute to these efforts, DNS currently lacks a formal structure to support collaboration and coordinated physician input on public health issues.

The proposed Public Health Section would address this need. Membership would be open to DNS members with formal public health training and to physicians with a strong interest in public and population health. The Section would complement, not duplicate, existing DNS committees and sections, including those focused on health policy, by providing a population health perspective and identifying emerging or under-recognized issues affecting Nova Scotians.

The objectives of the Public Health Section would be to:

- (1) Provide a forum for DNS members to connect and exchange expertise on public and population health.
- (2) Identify, discuss, and raise awareness of emerging population health issues relevant to both physicians, DNS and communities throughout the province.
- (3) Offer coordinated physician input to DNS leadership on policy, advocacy, and public statements related to public and population health when requested.
- (4) Support professional development and informed discussion among physicians on prevention, health equity, and population-level approaches to health; and
- (5) Provide a dedicated space for physicians working in public health to engage with DNS, access organizational support and ensure that their professional perspectives and needs are represented within the organization.

We believe the creation of this Section is timely and aligns with DNS's strategic priorities. It will support proactive, evidence-informed physician engagement on population health issues that may fall outside the mandate of local public health units or government departments.

In line with DNS requirements, a minimum of ten DNS physician members have endorsed this application, which has been endorsed by the Board of Directors.

The following motion will be presented at the AGM:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Doctors Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting approves the creation of the Section of Public Health.