

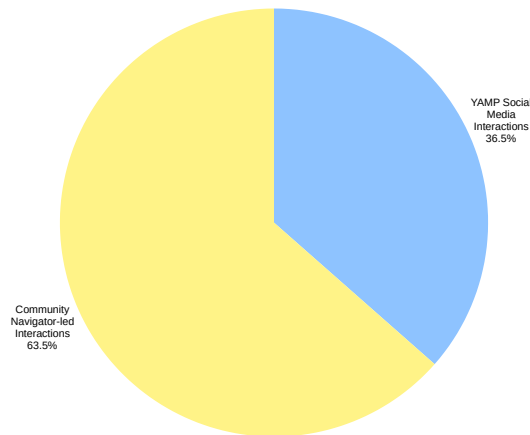
# Community Navigator

Brief Report



## Project Awareness Impact

Audience Engagement measures community awareness and engagement across social media platforms and organic interactions. Our project continues to gain awareness and helps with the positive perception of Yarmouth and surrounding communities among new physicians and medical learners. We very recently published a Facebook and Instagram pages; @yarmoutharea.



- Increases awareness of Yarmouth and Area as a welcoming and supportive community for physicians and medical learners by showcasing local lifestyle, opportunities, events, and community connections. Medical students and newer physicians are utilizing social media for opportunities and they appreciate our social media presence.
- Strengthens engagement and early integration by maintaining ongoing communication and visibility with current and prospective physicians and learners before, during, and after their transition into the region, as well as maintaining an open line of communication with community partners.

## Site Visit Report

TYPE OF VISIT	OFFER MADE BY NSH	PRACTICE STARTED
Family Medicine	Y	N
Paediatrics	Y	N
General Surgery	Y	N
IM/Hospitalist	Signed outside of Yarmouth	-
Ophthalmology	No New Development	-

## Challenges

1. Short term and long term accommodations that are affordable\* to medical learners, and new-to-Canada physicians who are not able to purchase a house right away.
2. Childcare availabilities that are for infants as young as 12-months old, and after-school and summer childcare for families who have school-aged kids.
3. Medical office space availability to help support ongoing physician attraction efforts, particularly for a General Surgeon actively considering practice in the region, and would appreciate any suggestions or contacts related to suitable professional spaces.
4. Attraction and retention efforts are affected by the tightening fundings streams due to rising costs across the board and the province's OHPR funding currently on hold. Because of this, we are restructuring the project's financial priorities.

## Opportunities

1. The Chamber will explore some options to see what may already be available as far as buildings go (e.g. the motel near the hospital)
2. We will speak to MLA Nick Hilton to discuss the importance of supporting the ECE program in order to attract and retain medical professionals in our community.
3. There are conversations regarding a medical clinic/office space that are underway in town. Any clarity on this must be communicated.
4. MoDA partnered with us in applying for a grant through the Reciprocity Health Fund, particularly to focus on the attraction and retention efforts by creating activities that will involve our youth by means of High School Medical Clubs and Teddy Bear Hospitals, we believe that involving medical learners and physicians in such a way will create a ripple effect in attracting and retaining physicians we need in Yarmouth & Area.

\*affordable housing can mean differently for everyone. Currently, we've seen a trend where students are able to pay for a private room with shared living spaces for up to \$40 to \$50/night on a 2-week placement. Incoming resident physicians and new-to-Canada physicians are seeking apartments that are anywhere from \$1200 to \$1800/month, ideally within walking distance to the hospital and downtown Yarmouth due to lack of transportation options.

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## Key Updates

**Medical Learners:** 12 medical students, 14 residents (12 of which are SWN site residents)

**Locum Physicians:** 11 locum coverages

**Credit Union Place Stays:** 9 medical learners, 3 regular tenants, 3 physicians stayed in the locum unit.

**Physician Hires:** Dr. Mitchell ED, Dr. Brown Psychiatry, Dr. Sakamudi PEDS

**Physician Losses:** None

### Highlight of the Quarter:

On March 26th, we had the honour of celebrating the incredible physicians who care for our communities across Southwest Nova Scotia at our 4th Annual Physician Appreciation Reception.

This special evening recognized 12 outstanding physicians, each nominated by their colleagues and peers. Each individual and group reflects the compassion, collaboration, and commitment that define healthcare in our region.

This event was made possible by the **Yarmouth & Area Medical Partnership**, consisting of the **Yarmouth Hospital Foundation**, the **Town of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia**, the **Municipality of the District of Yarmouth**, the **Municipality of Argyle / Municipalité d'Argyle**, the **Municipality of Barrington**, and the **Yarmouth and Area Chamber of Commerce**. We also extend our sincere thanks to the Office of Healthcare Professionals Recruitment and **Canadian Tire** for their valued support in making this event a huge success.

Moments like these remind us how important it is to celebrate those who care for us. We are proud to recognize and uplift our physicians. Not just for what they do, but for who they are in our communities.

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For any questions or inquiries, please reach out to [hello@yarmouthdoctors.ca](mailto:hello@yarmouthdoctors.ca)

Prepared by Charlene d'Entremont, Community Navigator.