

## **Physiotherapy**

Physiotherapy is the art and science of maximizing physical function and mobility. It encompasses a range of evidence-informed health care practices evolved to maintain and restore strength, movement and functional ability by the prevention and treatment of illness, injury or disability.

## **Physiotherapy in Nova Scotia and Canada**

- Physiotherapists are self-regulated, primary care health practitioners. Physiotherapy has been a direct access profession in Nova Scotia since 1999.
- Total number of registered physiotherapists in NS: 594 (Dec. 2008)
- Total number of NSPA members: 443 (Dec. 2008)
- NSPA is a Branch of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, which represents 10,300 physiotherapists and students across Canada
- Physiotherapy is Canada's fifth largest regulated health profession (behind physicians, nurses, dentists and pharmacists)
- There are just over 100 private physiotherapy clinics in Nova Scotia, employing about half of Nova Scotia's physiotherapists. Physiotherapists also work in public practice, community care, in consulting roles, and in academia.
- Dalhousie University provides entry-level and post-graduate education for physiotherapy in all four Atlantic provinces. Dalhousie increased its complement from 48 to 56 entry-level students per year in September 2009.
- Masters preparation is now required for entry to physiotherapy practice (Dalhousie moved from a BSc to MSc (Physiotherapy) in 2006).
- Two new programs for physiotherapy assistants now exist in Nova Scotia, at the Nova Scotia Community College (Springhill) and Compucollege (Halifax).

## **Nova Scotia Physiotherapy Advisory Group**

### **Members:**

- Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists ([www.nsphysio.com](http://www.nsphysio.com))
- Dalhousie School of Physiotherapy ([www.physiotherapy.dal.ca](http://www.physiotherapy.dal.ca))
- Nova Scotia Physiotherapy Association ([www.physiotherapyns.ca](http://www.physiotherapyns.ca))
- Provincial Leadership Rehabilitation Group
- Nova Scotia Section of the Private Practice Division of the CPA

### **Mission:**

The Nova Scotia Physiotherapy Advisory Group (NSPAG), coalition of physiotherapy representatives, works to promote the provision of quality physiotherapy services, education and research and affect health outcomes of Nova Scotians through communication, collaboration, advocacy and leadership on matters of interest affecting physiotherapists and physiotherapy.