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Golden
Scissors
Award

2024

Winner: Council of the Atlantic Premiers - The Atlantic Physician Registry

Recipients:

- The Council of the Atlantic Premiers
 - Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier of New Brunswick
 - Hon. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland & Labrador
 - Hon. Tim Houstin, Premier of Nova Scotia
 - Hon. Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island

The premiers of New Brunswick, Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are 2024 Golden Scissors Award winners for the Atlantic Physician Registry.

Launched on May 1, 2023, the Atlantic Physician Registry allows physicians registered in one of the four Atlantic provinces to practice in the others as of right. The annual fee for the Registry is \$500 and replaces all fees associated with temporary or locum licences for each of the Atlantic provinces.

Previously, physicians had to submit a full separate application to each provincial college, including a registration fee to obtain a licence to practise in that province. For example, before, a doctor already licenced in New Brunswick with verified credentials applying for a license in Nova Scotia would have to fill out a 16-page application to receive a temporary licence. Additionally, they would have been required to pay \$300 in fees for the initial application, and an additional \$354 per 30 days, up to 180 days, maxing out at \$2,124. If the same doctor wanted to apply for licences in Newfoundland & Labrador and Prince Edward Island, they would also incur fees of \$1,895 and \$2,125, respectively, for a total of \$6,144.

In addition to the financial savings, the Nova Scotia government estimates doctors will save 190 hours and dozens of pages of paperwork thanks to the Atlantic Physician Registry. This time saved can be used for additional patient visits and/or provide a better work-life balance for physicians. Additionally, it will encourage physicians to travel between provinces to help fill spaces where there might be a shortage of physicians.

Winner: *Your Health Act* - Ontario's "As of Right" legislation

Recipients:

- Hon. Sylvia Jones, Ontario Minister of Health

The Ontario Government is a 2024 Golden Scissors award winner for its *Your Health Act*. The *Act* introduced first-in-Canada "As of Right" exemptions for healthcare workers registered in any other Canadian province or territory. The exemptions allow healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, and medical laboratory technologists, to start working in Ontario without having to first register with one of Ontario's health regulatory colleges. Qualifying healthcare workers can work for up to six months in Ontario before having to register and are able to work and provide care during their application process, rather than having to wait for approvals. The "As of Right" legislation came into effect on July 24th, 2023.

This move removes bureaucratic hurdles, like lengthy paperwork and registration fees, that were preventing ready-to-work healthcare workers from providing much-needed care. The "As of Right" Legislation not only eliminates red tape for healthcare professionals but also sets a precedent for a broader reduction in unnecessary paperwork, and paves the way for other out-of-province certifications to be treated similarly.

One to Watch: The City of Richmond - The MyBusiness and MyPermit online service portals

Recipients:

- Malcolm Brodie, Mayor of Richmond
- Richmond City Council

MyBusiness is an online business licencing service within the City of Richmond's MyRichmond portal. MyBusiness reduces red tape by streamlining the business licencing process through an online self-service option that allows new and existing business owners to apply for, update, and renew their licences online without visiting City Hall.

This online service provides a streamlined way for businesses to interact with the City and access services on-demand such as making online payments and checking on application status. MyBusiness saves time and makes the business licencing process more convenient and accessible. The program has a strong adoption trend (50% total adoption (~7,000 businesses) in the first year).

The City has also just recently introduced MyPermit, a new online permit portal that provides customers with the flexibility to apply for and manage their building-related permits online. This is a significant milestone in the Permitting Optimization Project that will optimize and streamline processes for all building and development permits, while leveraging technology to improve the customer experience. In its early stages, the MyPermit portal focuses on simple permit types (i.e. simple "over the counter" trades permits, such as Plumbing, Gas, Fire Suppression Sprinklers and Servicing Agreement application intakes) allowing businesses to apply for, and receive, permits with the click of a button, instead of a written application.

