

**Speaking Notes – Dr. Gary Kachanoski
Forum on NL Health Outcomes
Frank and Eileen Gronich Lecture Theatre
M1M102, Faculty of Medicine
8 a.m., Wed., March 7, 2018**

- 8 am – coffee and muffins
 - 8:20 – Dr. Gambin welcomes participants, introduces Dr. Kachanoski
 - 8:30 – Dr. Kachanoski offer greetings
 - 8:35 – Minister Haggie begins his presentation
-

Thank you Dr. Gambin. Good morning everyone. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Memorial University's St. John's Campus.

In particular, I offer special greetings to the Honourable John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services. Minister, it's always a pleasure to welcome you to campus. Your government's continued support for our medical school and university is certainly appreciated.

I also extend a warm welcome to all other thought leaders who are here today from the other health associations. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to share your thoughts and insights with us.

As Dr. Gambin noted, today's forum is intended to be an open and honest discussion about health care delivery and its challenges in our province. And how appropriate it is happening at our university, a place where open, respectful and honest dialogue form the basis for teaching, research and innovation. Where differences of opinion and approach can – and often do – lead to important new discoveries.

A good idea can happen anywhere, but sometimes the place where it takes root can play a major role in whether or not it is able to reach its full potential. Of course, the university is a place of creative density – lots of talented people, a culture of challenging ideas and advancing knowledge, and mobilizing that knowledge for the benefit of individuals, communities and government.

Memorial's mission recognizes public engagement as a strategically important part of what we do. We encourage collaborations between people and groups within Memorial, and people and groups external to the university, that further Memorial's mission and special obligation to Newfoundland and Labrador.

And that's who will lead the debate today – Memorial researchers and external partners who have dedicated themselves to improving healthcare in our province.

As the array of speakers exemplifies, one of Memorial's key strengths is our partnerships. This creates an environment of collaboration and dynamic opportunities, which ultimately benefits the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and beyond.

Government, health care professionals and organizations, and community partners – coming together to find solutions for improved health care delivery.

There's no one in this room who has not been, or will not be, affected by the things that will be discussed here today. We all have a stake in the decisions made and hopefully Memorial will be able to offer its expertise to take the next steps forward.

Indeed we are uniquely qualified to support those first steps. As Dr. Sandra Gwynn noted when receiving her honorary degree, [quote] "Here [at Memorial] is curiosity informed by a sense of context; a community of scholars that in the way few other universities have been able to achieve, draws its own particular excellence from its deep roots in its own community." [unquote]

In other words, our faculty and staff both draw their strength from, and reflect the needs of, the community around us. And that synergy leads to innovative ideas that can have local significance and global impacts.

Before concluding I would like to thank CARE for recognizing the need to bring today's groups together and for sponsoring what I am sure will be an open and honest debate about health care.

So I wish you all the best as you begin your deliberations and discussions. I hope you have a successful, productive day.