

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY

A Measure of Our Health and Health System was written and produced by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and the presentation of the information it contains is the responsibility of this department. This responsibility consists of ensuring accurate representation of data, ensuring alignment with the principles for reporting approved by the Conference of Deputy Ministers and maintaining adequate controls to ensure that the information presented is accurate and reliable.

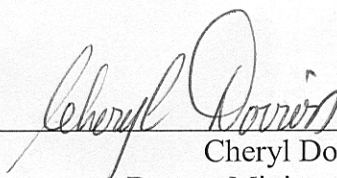
The Department's responsibility regarding the information produced by outside organizations (i.e., Statistics Canada, Health Canada, Canadian Institute for Health Information) consists of providing them with reliable data, carrying out work to validate the results provided back to the Nova Scotia Department of Health, and providing explanations of the results obtained. These outside organizations are responsible for processing the information received by the department according to the procedures agreed upon. The collection and primary statistical analysis of survey data presented here is the responsibility of Statistics Canada (Canadian Community Health Survey, Health Services Access Survey and National Population Health Survey). The reporting and presentation of the data in Nova Scotia's report is the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Department of Health.

The framework for reporting is determined pursuant to the 2003 First Ministers' Accord on Health Care Renewal, which builds on the *Communiqué on Health* from the First Ministers' meeting of September 11, 2000, and by the definitions and technical specifications included in the "Plan for Reporting Comparable Health Indicators, November 2004" approved by the Conference of Deputy Ministers. The Plan includes 70 indicators (86 sub-indicators). The Conference of Deputy Ministers approved a subset of 18 indicators (26 sub-indicators) that all jurisdictions are to feature in their 2004 reports.

The data for some indicators presented on the central website originate from sources such as hospital records and reported instances of diseases. The completeness and accuracy of these data are the collective responsibility of health professionals, District Health Authorities and the Department of Health. The Department believes the controls in place are adequate to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data. Despite these controls, there are inherent limitations in certain of the indicators. For each indicator any concerns about the accuracy, completeness and comparability may be found on the central website: www.cihi.ca/comparable-indicators.

The Auditor General of Nova Scotia audited the performance indicators in this report. The Auditor's Report appears on the Department's website at www.gov.ns.ca/health.

In our opinion, the data presented in, *A Measure of Our Health and Health System*, are reliable and are a fair presentation of the health performance indicators as of November 30, 2004.



Cheryl Doiron
Deputy Minister of Health