



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***New endowment fund announced to celebrate over 40 years of friendship***

**ROTHESAY, NB (April 15, 2021):** The New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc. (NBMEFI) is pleased to announce the creation of the Don and Jane Mitchener Medical Education Scholarship endowed by the Hon. Michael and Mrs. Kelly Meighen. This \$125,000.00 investment in the future of healthcare in New Brunswick, by providing in perpetuity an annual \$5,000.00 scholarship, will allow our best and brightest medical students to remain here, or return home, to practice medicine.

The scholarship is open to New Brunswick residents who have been accepted to an accredited medical school in Canada and will provide funding for the 4-year duration of the MD program. As a return to service scholarship, it will be incumbent on the recipient to pledge an equal amount of time practicing medicine in New Brunswick. This scholarship will be awarded for the first time in 2021. There will be a preference for practitioners who will serve in southwest New Brunswick, particularly Charlotte County.

"We've known Don and his late wife Jane for over 40 years," said Mr. Meighen. "Don's support and passion for the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation Inc. made it an easy choice to support this organization that helps young residents to become much-needed future doctors in New Brunswick. Kelly and I, as seasonal residents in the province, certainly see the need for family physicians and specialists. We are more than pleased to help with the creation of this endowment fund."

Mr. Meighen's family has United Empire Loyalist roots back to the 18th Century in Saint John and St. Andrews and has a deep attachment to the community and region. For many years, the Meighen's have made significant commitments personally and through The T.R. Meighen Family Foundation to support numerous causes throughout southern New Brunswick. Don and Jane, however, only moved to New Brunswick in 1998. "I am genuinely touched by their naming of the endowment after my late wife Jane and myself. It has always been a personal and professional privilege to work with Michael and Kelly in their philanthropy and now to be seen as part of that is beyond any expectation. As a supporter of the Foundation and a member of its Finance Committee, I am deeply moved by their generosity and wonderful friendship over these many years, said Mr. Mitchener, a retired senior tax partner with Deloitte. "It truly reflects the commitment we all share to build a bright future for healthcare and patient support in New Brunswick."

NBMFI is the only not-for-profit organization in Canada dedicated to providing scholarships for New Brunswick residents to attend medical school and practice in the province through the return to service pledges. Understanding the challenges our healthcare system faces, the Foundation is an important partner in addressing New Brunswick's need for physicians. "The creation of this endowment to honour Don and Jane truly exemplifies the meaning of friendship and greatly assists a New Brunswick resident to become a practicing doctor here. We are truly indebted to their support," said Jason Downey, Foundation Co-Chair.

If you would like to learn more about the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation and how to support its role to attract and keep our best and brightest in New Brunswick, please contact the office at 506-848-0036, email [Darren.McLeod@nbmeded.ca](mailto:Darren.McLeod@nbmeded.ca), or visit our website at <https://www.nbmeded.ca>. As well, follow us through Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn to meet some of the 143 recipients of our scholarships.



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