

Rob & Rachel's Top 10 List

What We Have Learned This Year
About Setting Up A New LIC!!



1. Make friends with people in Information Technology...they are the key to having everything set up for your students from access to all things computer based to making sure didactic teaching runs on schedule. When all else fails... bring fudge. Sugar is the ultimate “peace offering”.



- Never EVER offer to set up furnished apartments for students without having funding set up PRIOR to the offer-this applies to anything else that might seem like a good idea at the time!



3. Relax - they have all year and this isn't a race - it gives them something to look forward to! They will be stressed and overwhelmed for at least the first 3 months.



4. Flexibility is the key... and everyone has to be willing to go with the flow-students, preceptors, and administration-in our situation we kept going back to our curriculum and our objectives and ensured these were being met.



5. Students are nervous in September when they arrive - this is normal. By January things have all leveled out and they really don't need you anymore! (Not really-they'll need you all year to help guide them through some difficult situations. As the year unfolded, we found ourselves leading less and guiding/mentoring more)



6. It takes a community to teach a LIC student
 - * The importance of recognizing the challenges the students faced in small town life.
 - * Important to give students the opportunity to have lots of exposure to health care in the community.
 - * In our situation, it was important to engage our local First Nation community.



7. When in doubt... ask! It has been the key to many new initiatives we have created along the way.

*Not our first rodeo as it pertains to medical education but we had to be flexible and responsive to all parties as we started our LIC adventure.





8. When you have seen one LIC program, you have seen one LIC program-you've heard this before! But don't be afraid of establishing linkages and relationships with other LIC's. (like Miramichi's fairy godmother, Dr. Jill Konkin!



9. LIC students become a valuable part of your community! Watch for them at sporting events, fundraisers, giving presentations, at your place of worship, at the grocery store... they are valuable members of your community. Invite them in and hopefully they will come back!



10. It's AWESOME- Enjoy it! It is wonderful to watch the progress students make, to see the excitement of a learner when they have learned a new skill or have gotten wonderful feedback from a preceptor. To watch preceptors take pride in the students they are teaching and become invested in their learning. To see a hospital take on a program as its own so that not only physicians but all involved feel the pride of a program that is succeeding through the success of their learners. To see a community embrace a new beginning that will continue to grow.



We would like to express our gratitude to many individuals who helped make our Inaugural Year of implementing a LIC program in the Miramichi. Our long list of those we are grateful to would include but not limited to...

- The Clerkship groups both at Dalhousie Campus and Saint John
- Dr. John Steeves and Pam Bourque who have supported this initiative from its very beginning.
- Horizon Health Staff at all levels who continue to promote and support this initiative, and Peter Gadd for his many beautiful photos.
- Our Medical Staff who continue to welcome our learners and are as excited to be involved as we are.
- Our amazing preceptors and their office staff who have welcomed our students into their practices.
- Our LIC students who took a chance at being the ones we “test- drive” our new program on.





Questions?