



PRINCE EDWARD
FAMILY HEALTH TEAM
A team approach to your good health

New Clinic Funding Announcement

The Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has committed \$2.1M towards the construction of a new \$5.5M Primary Health Care Centre to be located in Picton. Once complete, the new health care centre will be owned by a separate community based not-for-profit organization with both the Prince Edward Family Health Team (PEFHT) and family physicians as tenants of the centre.

The Prince Edward Family Health Team Board and management has long identified the absence of such a facility as a serious challenge to their capacity to deliver collaborative team based care to the residents of Prince Edward County.

Once completed the 21,000 sq. ft. health centre will house eleven family physicians and their staff, 3 nurse practitioners, Family Health Team nurses, social workers, a dietitian and a pharmacist. It will provide clinical space for visiting physician specialists, Queen's University family medicine residents and case managers from the South East Community Care Access Centre. The new location will also serve as the head office of the PEFHT.

In making the announcement today Leona Dombrowsky, MPP for Prince Edward – Hastings said “the Prince Edward Family Health Team has strongly demonstrated over the past two years their willingness to embrace new opportunities as they become available through Provincial funding intended to strengthen health care in our community. Dr. Higgins, Dr. Rice and the 20 other family physicians have stayed true to the collaborative team care model in building the family health team. They have over this period started many new clinical services, recruited high caliber nurse practitioners and other health professionals and embraced emerging technology as they demonstrate excellence in primary health care services. They are serving more and more residents and are committed to caring for every resident of Prince Edward. They have shown a willingness to extend their services outside of the County to assist neighbouring communities. I am pleased that the Government of Ontario can support the Prince Edward Family Health Team in the development of a new health care centre where these wonderful professionals will be able to work side by side in a true collaborative team environment.”

“Ensuring the continuation of the high quality health care we enjoy in the County of Prince Edward has been a long standing personal goal”, said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. “Congratulations to all those who worked together to make this happen – the Family Health Team for developing the proposal and spear-heading the initiative, County Council for contributing the land, and the Province of Ontario for its generous funding.”

Dr. Cliff Rice, Vice President, of the PEFHT Board of Directors says “We are grateful to Ms. Dombrowsky for her continuing support for what we are doing. The Ministry funding is a significant start to getting this Centre built. Our Family Physicians and the PEFHT have had great success in bringing in skilled health professionals, consulting specialists, and with fully incorporating a system for electronic health records and access to specialists through telemedicine. Progress has been incredible but the development of shared clinical space in Picton will ensure an even stronger primary health care service in Prince Edward County. We know that primary health care professionals working as partners in a team approach results in better health outcomes, improved access to services, maximizes resources, and provides greater satisfaction for both patients and health professionals. Teams are better positioned to focus on health promotion and improve the management of chronic diseases.”

"Today's announcement is about providing people, particularly those living with chronic disease such as diabetes, with access to the services they most require. It is about putting patients at the centre of their care and providing important services to support their well-being," says Georgina Thompson, Chair of the South East Local Health Integration Network.

Nurse Practitioner and PEFHT Board member Mary Woodman notes, “This funding is a smart investment by the Province. It is one time funding that will be instrumental in advancing the Ministry of Health’s objective of having family physicians; nurse practitioners and other health care professionals working side by side to deliver the best in comprehensive primary health care. This is what was envisioned in the Ministry’s design of the Family Health Team delivery model.”

PEFHT community board member Mark Larratt-Smith is very pleased and notes that, “this funding is a welcome commitment from the Government of Ontario at a time when Prince Edward County residents are anxious about health care services in our community. Working together with the South East LHIN and with all of the other providers of health care services in our community, this contribution will help move us toward our goal of providing the sustainable long term health care services that are so important to County residents.”

While at least eleven family physicians want to lease space in the new health centre, the funding for the construction of this space has yet to be found.

Executive Director Duff Sprague says, “This is a giant first step. We are very pleased with the \$2.1M in Ministry of Health funding and we have known from the outset that we would need to access other sources of funding to build the additional space which can then be leased to physicians. We have been strongly supported by Ms. Dombrowsky and our local government notably Mayor Finnegan and County Council. This funding allows us to now vigorously pursue all available avenues of funding to secure the outstanding funding needed to complete this centre.”

The new health care centre will not only greatly impact service delivery in Prince Edward County but it will also benefit the community with more local jobs in the construction industry and by generating significant monthly revenue through leases with physicians.

BACKGROUNDER

Prince Edward Family Health Team Staff/Clinic Summary

Family Physicians and Patients:

- **22 family physicians (and associated office staff) across 12 sites**
- **3 nurse practitioners**
- **16 Family Health Team health professionals – RNs; social workers; dietitians; pharmacist and respiratory therapist**
- **Providing clinical space to partner with 6 specialist physicians and the Community Care Access Centre**
- **Serving approximately 21,000 patients**
- **Providing such Programs and Services as:**
 - Access to health information through our Virtual Resource Centre at: www.pefht.ca
 - Asthma Management
 - Blood Pressure Monitoring
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
 - Colorectal Cancer Screening
 - Congestive Heart Failure
 - Dermatology Clinic (Webs of Care Telemedicine)
 - Diabetes Education
 - Foot Care (Diabetes, Vascular Disease, Frail Elderly)
 - Healthy Nutrition
 - Medication Management
 - Mental Health
 - Maternal and Child Health
 - Palliative Care
 - Point of Care Blood Testing for Anticoagulant Management
 - Smoking Cessation Support
 - Telehomecare (Home Support)
 - Wound Management