

## News Release/Pour publication immédiate

### Local Family Physician joins South East LHIN Team

*Primary Care Lead collaborates to improve access to health care for SE LHIN residents*

NEWS

Feb 3, 2011

The SE LHIN today took another major step in strengthening and further integrating primary care into local health planning by naming Dr. Jonathan Kerr as the Primary Care Lead for the SE LHIN.

Dr. Kerr practices family medicine, emergency medicine, and inpatient care in his hometown of Belleville, Ontario. He is also the Curriculum Director for Queen's University's Department of Family Medicine. With a true passion for improving the health care of the residents of the South East, Dr. Kerr will work with the SE LHIN to ensure that primary care services are better integrated with the work of other health sectors. By working together, the LHIN and local health service providers continue to implement strategies to *improve access to quality care for local residents.*

Across the province, LHINs have been building great partnerships with local primary care providers. The introduction of a Primary Care Lead in each of the province's 14 LHINs is endorsed by both the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ontario Medical Association and is in line with the government's Action Plan commitment to bring planning for the full patient journey under the LHINs. Through this collaborative work, local primary care providers can strengthen these partnerships and focus on implementing system initiatives identified locally by the LHIN through extensive community consultation to address local health care challenges.

In the SE LHIN these local initiatives to build healthy communities have included The Family Health Team and Family Health Organization Memorandum Supporting Collaboration and working with Community Health Centres to build an accessible primary care system with a focus on special populations and improving patient outcomes.

### QUOTES

"Having Primary Care Leads in each LHIN shows the government's commitment to improving access to health care. This is good news for Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care. Patients – especially seniors - will benefit from the earlier intervention and case management that our primary care physicians and their teams provide."

- Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

“Ontario’s doctors know that progress has been made in improving and strengthening the health care system but believe there is more work to be done. By appointing Primary Care Leads in each of the LHINs, and building on existing partnerships and successes, local family physicians can work more closely with other health care providers to improve access and find innovative ways to save the system money that can be re-invested into patient care.”

- Dr. Stewart Kennedy, President, Ontario Medical Association

“As the LHINs take on responsibility for planning for primary care, the addition of Dr Jonathan Kerr to our team will support the SE LHIN in continuing to achieve more accountability for delivering better value by ensuring that the health care needs of our community are identified, coordinated and addressed as a truly integrated system. As the Primary Care Lead for the SE LHIN, Dr. Kerr will be instrumental in focusing on local system initiatives that will integrate with our primary care providers as we create a seamless system of care.”

- Paul Huras, SE LHIN CEO

### QUICK FACTS

- Dr. Jonathan Kerr is the Chair of the College of Family Physicians of Canada’s First Five Years in Family Practice Committee.
- Dr. Kerr has been a member of the SE LHIN’s Primary Health Care Council for the past five years, and more recently has been involved with the LHIN Collaborative as a member of the Primary Care Physician Expert Panel.
- Despite his various commitments, Dr. Kerr ensures he finds time for a “daddy day” every week with his two young children.

### LEARN MORE:

[The Walker Report](#)

[Ontario Medical Association](#)

*LHINs are the only organizations in Ontario that bring together health care partners from the following sectors - hospitals, community care, community support services, community mental health and addictions, community health centres and long-term care - to develop innovative, collaborative solutions leading to more timely access to high quality services for the residents of the SE LHIN and Ontario. By supporting these*

*important partnerships, LHINs are ensuring that Ontarians have access to an effective and efficient health care system that delivers improved health care results and a better patient experience.*

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