

March 14, 2023

To whom it may concern,

[MUNICIPALITY NAME] fully endorses the proposal for a Community Health Centre (CHC) submitted in August 2022. There are 101 CHCs across Ontario and Peterborough lacks this investment to provide proactive, cost-saving health care for our significantly marginalized population.

The need in our community is urgent. The Peterborough Ontario Health Team has ranked 3rd worst for premature mortality, 4th worst for physician visits after hospitalization, and 12th worst for average monthly cost among 42 Ontario Health Teams in 2019/20. These are all indicators that correlated with marginalization. As well, the opioid crisis is devastating with the Peterborough Public Health Unit ranked 3rd highest in terms of average opioid related deaths (July 2017-June 2018), and the rate of opioid-related ED Visits in Peterborough almost double that of the province in 2020.

The proposed CHC will serve 6,000 marginalized people in our community. The primary care model of a CHC is adequately structured and resourced for the complex needs of marginalized people including those with brain injuries, mental health challenges, substance use challenges, as well as populations requiring specialized or culturally appropriate care.

Although this facility will be located in the City of Peterborough, its impact will be far reaching into Peterborough County. Many of our residents receive healthcare and other services in the city and the CHC is committed to partnering for service delivery in Peterborough County. By working together, we will ensure that the CHC is successful and serves the needs of our most vulnerable residents.

Other Ontario communities have CHCs which are designed and adequately funded to serve marginalized populations. Given Peterborough's high levels of marginalization and large unattached population, we strongly encourage this historical under-investment in primary care be remedied by funding a CHC in our community.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[TITLE/]