

## Community Health Centre: an Urgently Needed Investment in Peterborough

**Peterborough is seeking \$8.2 million annual investment to fund a Community Health Centre (CHC), providing primary health care to 6,000 marginalized individuals.**

- A proposal was submitted by the Peterborough Ontario Health Team (OHT) on August 5, 2022, to Ontario Health.
- The effort is being spearheaded by a newly incorporated non-profit with experienced, local champions on its inaugural Board. Publicly endorsing this work are 28 local agencies.

### a) The Urgent Need:

- Peterborough is in desperate need of family physicians.
- Peterborough has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest level of marginalization among 42 OHTs\* yet and is without a primary health care model designed and resourced to serve its highly marginalized population.
- Due to this, Peterborough has very poor outcomes on health measures, including high costs.
- Other systems in Peterborough, such as the hospital, are bearing the burden.

### b) The Solution: A CHC in Peterborough will:

- Attract new physicians to our community, specifically those who prefer to work at a CHC.
- Provide accessible care to marginalized individuals who are not, and likely never will be, attached to traditional primary health care.
- Generate cost savings to our health system by offering the right care in the right place.
- Add capacity by creating a central hub, coordinating efforts for health care and other services, thus relieving pressures on our hospital.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- **There are 101 CHCs in Ontario.**
- The Conservative government of Bill Davis created CHCs, envisioning a network across ON.
- Peterborough County is the largest centre in South Central Ontario without a CHC.



c) Without a CHC, Peterborough is Struggling

- **The lack of a CHC is contributing to poor health outcomes, an unnecessarily burdened hospital, and higher costs.**
- Peterborough Ontario Health Team's (OHT) 2019/20 performance on measures correlated with marginalization compared to 42 Ontario Health Teams\*:
  - Premature Mortality – 3<sup>rd</sup> worst
  - ED visits Best Managed Elsewhere – 6<sup>th</sup> worst
  - Physician Visits After a Hospitalization – 4<sup>th</sup> worst
  - Average Monthly Cost – 12<sup>th</sup> worst
- As well, the opioid crisis is devastating with the Peterborough Public Health Unit ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

d) The proposed Peterborough CHC will

- Focus on serving 6,0000 marginalized individuals – those who are lower-income, live with mental health and substance use challenges, have acquired brain injuries or other disabilities, and individuals needing specialized care such as trans care or culturally appropriate care including Indigenous individuals and Newcomers.
- Act as anchor to integrate health care with other social services – in the City and for rural residents in Peterborough County, reducing the burden on our hospital.
- Attract physicians interested in serving disadvantaged populations within a supportive inter-professional team. The Peterborough area is designated as an area in 'high need of family physicians' and has struggled for years to recruit physicians to our area.

A CHC will remedy this longstanding gap in basic access to primary health care across our community.

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Peterborough CHC's Board of Directors

- **Jonathan Bennett, C.Dir., Chair** – former board chair of OTN, healthcare consultant, executive coach, independent director.
- **Dr. Dawn Lavell Harvard, Ph.D., Vice-Chair** – former President of Native Women's Association of Canada, Director at the First Peoples House of Learning at Trent University.
- **Sarah Budd, Treasurer** – President & CEO of the Peterborough and Kawartha Chamber of Commerce, former CEO of Habitat for Humanity Peterborough and Kawartha Region
- **Dr. Jim Shipley, Board Member** – retired MD (ER, Anaesthesia, Family Medicine), longstanding community board member CMHA-HKPR

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For more information:

Sign up for our newsletter at [www.ptbochc.ca](http://www.ptbochc.ca)

Email: [info@ptbochc.ca](mailto:info@ptbochc.ca)

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\* The Health System Performance Network reviewed sex and age standardized data to compare between 42 Ontario Health Teams [Ontario Health Teams Phase 2 Evaluation. OHT Attributable Populations: Total Population Improvement Indicators at Baseline, 2017/18 to 2019/20](#). Toronto, ON: Health System Performance Network. 2021.