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Physician Recruitment a Priority in Haldimand

Funding approved by Haldimand Council for a Haldimand Physician Recruitment role to join the Greater Hamilton Health Network Physician Recruitment program

Together, the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN), an Ontario Health Team serving Hamilton, Haldimand and Niagara Northwest, Haldimand County, and the GHHN Haldimand Stakeholder Council Executive Committee is pleased to announce a new partnership that will provide an additional staff member to support the GHHN's existing physician recruitment program and allow it to expand services to Haldimand.

The origins of the initiative go back over a year ago, when a group - including Haldimand War Memorial Hospital, West Haldimand General Hospital, the Haldimand Family Health Team, and Haldimand County - came together to begin exploring the need for Physician Recruitment support in Haldimand. Together they engaged key stakeholders to address the current pressures on primary care and to explore how this needed resource could be brought to Haldimand to address the growing physician shortage. In the Fall of 2023, the group began to explore the idea of partnering with the GHHN to grow the Physician Recruitment program to allow it to extend its services to Haldimand County

They engaged and listened to the community and local providers and know there is concern over the growing physician shortage and wait times to see a practitioner in Haldimand. The group came together with a collective "vision to build primary care capacity within Haldimand and ensure that all citizens have access to primary care in a timely manner," says Barbara Klassen, Executive Director of the Haldimand Family Health Team.

The partnership between Haldimand County and the GHHN's Physician Recruitment Program represents one of the largest collaborations in Ontario aimed at improving access to primary care through physician recruitment. "This arrangement will allow for a more coordinated and streamlined approach to addressing physician recruitment challenges in both Hamilton and Haldimand through the sharing of resources, enhanced regional capacity planning, and increased program recognition. This innovative approach speaks to the supportive and collaborative nature of the healthcare community within the GHHN as well as the County's commitment to improving the health and well-being of those who call Haldimand home," says Brad van den Heuvel, Director of Physician Recruitment at the GHHN.

Previously, physician recruitment in Haldimand was handled individually by practitioners, healthcare organizations, and hospitals. A coordinated effort was needed to build a physician recruitment program that would address the physician shortage for Haldimand. “Working together as partners is the best way to maximize our recruitment efforts. I see this role, and its focus on the specific needs of Haldimand County, as a critical support to assist us in caring for our community,” says Sharon Moore, President and CEO at Haldimand War Memorial Hospital.

The funding for the physician recruitment position was approved by Haldimand County Council on February 29th 2024 through the 2024 Operating Budget, and recruitment for a Physician Recruitment coordinator to join the GHHN’s Physician Recruitment Program is now underway. “Physician recruitment was identified as one of Haldimand Council’s top term of Council priorities, says Mike Evers, General Manager of Community & Development Services at Haldimand County, “arriving at this stage – the hiring of a physician recruitment coordinator – demonstrates the commitment to action on this priority and is a significant milestone in the journey to bringing new primary care physicians to the County. This partnership is mutually beneficial as it will lead to growth in the resources and capabilities of the GHHN, while providing the necessary recruitment supports and services that are so desperately needed in the County.”

“I am thrilled that Haldimand will have a dedicated fulltime physician recruiter,” says Todd Stepanuik, President & CEO of West Haldimand General Hospital, “this ground-breaking initiative marks a pivotal moment for Haldimand, emphasizing the importance of the Haldimand Physician Recruitment position in our pursuit to bolster the number of primary care practitioners in our communities. The partnership between the Greater Haldimand Health Network and the key partners exemplifies our shared commitment to addressing the healthcare needs of our region.”

Physician recruitment will focus on recruiting new family physicians and supporting those currently practicing in the community, with an aim to improve access to primary care for all patients. Program staff will help local family physicians navigate the process of transitioning into or out of practice and provide direct support in securing a successor or temporary coverage.

To learn more about the Physician Recruitment program and how we are building community health together please visit greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca.



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health together.*

For more information please visit:

<https://greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca>

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