

Apr. 30

Family doctors are seeking CHCs: find out why

Welcome to our first newsletter.

We are grateful that you've chosen to sign up, stay informed, and join with us on this journey—to bring a Community Health Centre (CHC) to Peterborough.

Please **forward this newsletter** with anyone in your network who might be interested.

Recap: Why does Peterborough urgently need a Community Health Centre?

- Attract new family doctors and nurse practitioners who prefer to practice in a CHC model
- Reduce pressure on the hospital and lessen emergency department wait times
- Attach 6,000+ patients to a doctor or nurse practitioner
- Act as a local hub for social services supporting marginalized individuals
- Champion a healthier, safer, and vibrant downtown community

Progress to date—quick summary:

2022: A working group of concerned community agencies and volunteers convened to seek solutions to our growing crisis of a lack of primary health care options for our City's most vulnerable. After a year of hard work, a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health seeking \$8.2M in annual operating funding to establish a CHC in Peterborough.

2023: With the proposal submitted, the project was then handed over to the community. A group of volunteers became the inaugural board of directors of a new non-profit organization, whose mission is to establish and run a CHC in Peterborough. With support from the MPP, we launched the project to the wider community in February.

What's Next? While we await the Province's decision on our proposal, we are meeting with local groups and municipal leaders to spread the word. Having [launched a new website](#), we aim to educate our City on what a CHC is, what it will provide our most marginalized patients, and how everyone can advocate to help us bring a CHC to our community.

NEWS: 18 New Primary Care Teams Planned for Ontario. Will Our CHC Be One?

The Ontario Budget commits to funding '18 new primary care teams in communities with greatest need'. Peterborough is clearly in great need. A 2020 survey of Peterborough's physicians indicated that about a third intend to retire by 2025, potentially increasing the number of unattached patients to 36,000.

Data shows that marginalized individuals in our community are more likely to be unattached. This means that those who are the most vulnerable and medically complex are without care.

Peterborough has the 4th highest level of marginalization of 42 Ontario Health Teams. Clearly, we need a Community Health Centre which is the only model specifically resourced and structured to meet the needs of more complex patients through a team of salaried care providers.

There are 101 CHCs in Ontario. Peterborough is **inexplicably without a CHC despite** its comparable population to other CHC locales and a highly disadvantaged unattached population. With this new funding announcement, now is the time to remedy this tragic and longstanding gap in investment that is leaving those who are most vulnerable without health care.

Media and Advocacy Round-up

At our kick off event on February 15th, we welcomed the supportive presence of our MPP Dave Smith and many community partners. Since then, we have presented at County and City Council, receiving even more media coverage and letters of support. Here's some media highlights:

[Provincial approval sought for \\$8.2M Peterborough Community Health Centre](#) - *Peterborough Examiner*, Feb. 15, 2023

[Campaign kicks off Community Health Centre Peterborough](#) - Global News, Feb. 15, 2023

[Could community health centre plan be the answer to Peterborough's doctor shortage problem](#) - *Peterborough Examiner*, Feb. 28, 2023

PETERBOROUGH REGION

Provincial approval sought for \$8.2M Peterborough Community Health Centre

Board of directors unveiled for clinic that would aim to serve 6,000 marginalized residents lacking a family doctor.

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By **Alex Schummer** Examiner Reporter
Wed., Feb. 15, 2023 | 2 min. read

Article was updated Feb. 16, 2023

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Yes. CHCs Attract Physicians...

A recent article affirms that family physicians are seeking “opportunities to deliver comprehensive care in team-based models consistent with how they trained...the ability to take time off, with coverage for patients; the ability to focus on medicine, rather than running a business; and fulfilling work that responds to community needs.”

A community health centre will recruit physicians to Peterborough because it offers them working conditions they want: salaried employment with predictable hours, ease of taking vacation, and the satisfaction of delivering high quality care alongside a team.

The benefits of “team-based care can include increasing access to care and capacity, reducing physician workload, improving provider work-life balance, improving quality of care, filling gaps in care (especially mental health and chronic disease management), meeting the breadth of patient and community needs, and creating a supportive and appealing workplace for a variety of health professionals and related staff.” Read and watch more here :

[Richard H. Glazier, Canadian Family Physician January 2023, 69 \(1\) 11-16](#)

[Peterborough Letter: New doctor would work in a health centre](#) *Peterborough Examiner*, Mar.8, 2023

[TVO Documentary: Exploring Ontario’s Doctor Shortage \(video\)](#)

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Thanks for reading. We appreciate your support. If you haven’t already, sign up to our monthly newsletter to stay informed of our progress.

Yours,

Jonathan, Dawn, Jim & Sarah
(Ptbo CHC’s Board)

Ps. Have questions? Please email us at info@ptbochc.ca