



# Addressing Family Physician Needs in The Blue Mountains

---

AMO Delegation – Ministry of Health

August 15, 2022

# Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee

The Committee is a joint Municipal effort for the development, implementation and progress monitoring of a sustainable solution for the recruitment and retention of Primary Care Physicians in the South Georgian Bay Region.



*Rural Ontario  
Medical Program*



# South Georgian Bay

## Legend

- |  |  |  |                         |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
|  | Regional Hospital                        |  | Waterbody               |
|  | Local Hospital                           |  | Freeway                 |
|  | Population Centre                        |  | Highway                 |
|  | Lower and Single Tier Municipal Boundary |  | County Road             |
|  | Upper Tier Municipal Boundary            |  | Local Road - Major Road |
|  | Public Health Unit Boundary              |  | Local Road              |



Data: 2021 Land Information Ontario, 2016 Census boundary data from Statistics Canada.  
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 17N

This map is intended for reference purposes only. Information shown on this map has been compiled from various sources and may not be complete or accurate and may be subject to change without notice. The Town of The Blue Mountains is not responsible for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this drawing. No part of this map may be reproduced, modified or transmitted to others in any way without the written permission of The Corporation of The Town of The Blue Mountains.

# Committee Achievements

Established in 2019, the Committee has worked collaboratively to address health care needs throughout the South Georgian Bay Region.

## Progress to Date:

- Working with the Ministry of Health, the Committee was successful in having the Town of Collingwood designated as an Area of High Physician Need which lifted the virtual cap preventing family physicians from setting up their own practice in Collingwood.
- The Committee published a white paper, titled “Creating and Sustaining Access to Primary Care in South Georgian Bay Region” which aimed to raise awareness and greater insight into the urgent need for primary care access in South Georgian Bay.
- The Committee conducted a public survey in April 2021, to better understand the state of access to primary care amongst area residents.
  - The survey results showed that 1 in 3 respondents indicated their primary care provider is located outside of the area covered by the municipalities surveyed
  - The survey results showed support for the expansion of the Owen Sound Family Health Team to Grey Highlands, Meaford and The Blue Mountains

# Next Steps

- The Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee has been dissolved as the current Term of Council comes to the end of its term.
- The Committee has developed and endorsed a proposed revised structure that would see the Committee continue to operate through future elections and also encourages membership through a range of healthcare stakeholders.

## Proposed Structure of New Committee

- Not For Profit Corporation that reports to its membership base.
- Initial membership minimum of 20 members allocated to the Board:
  - 1 seat for each Municipal Council (6)
  - 1 seat for each of the two local Family Health Teams (2)
  - 1 seat for each of the three area hospitals being Meaford, Grey Highlands and Collingwood (3)
  - 9 seats for local residents at large – focused on specific expertise/experience as medical professionals

# Requests for Consideration

1. The Town requests that the Ministry reduce red tape around physician allocations, recruitment and placement by removing monthly Provincial wide physician cap and by reducing the processing times for adding a new signatory physician to a FHO group.

## Outcomes:

- ✓ Increased access to family physicians in the small urban and rural areas.
- ✓ Optimized quality, cost effectiveness, convenience and appropriate access to primary care
- ✓ Reduced emergency department visits, wait times and travel requirements



**Questions?**