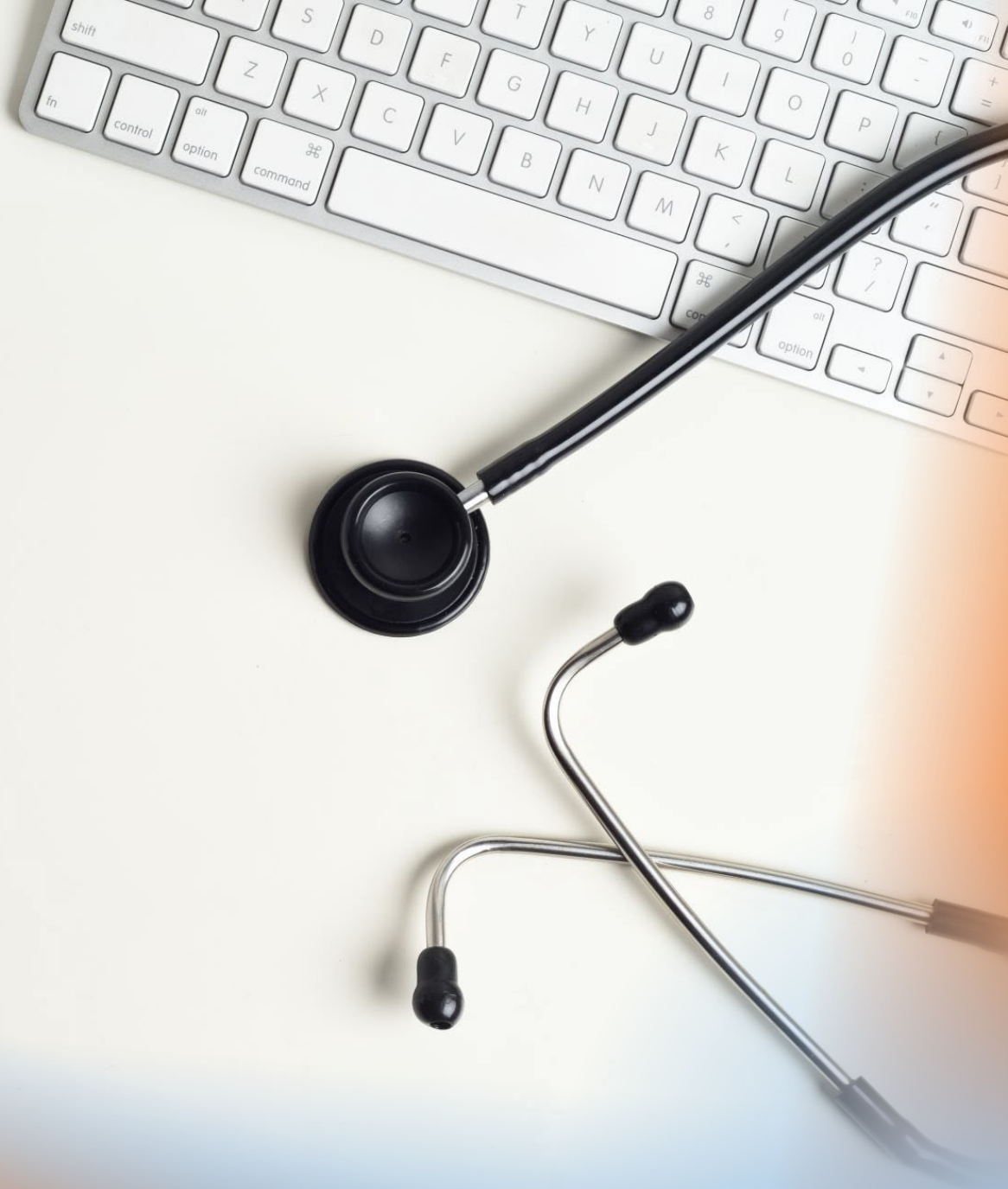


National / Provincial Shortage of Family Physicians is becoming a TBM challenge and priority!

Fall 2024

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Purpose Today

- Information Update to Council from our Presentation on November 2023
- Recommend to council, based on our unique experience at NEGHC, future actions and commitments that council can take to facilitate the recruitment of physicians to our community
- Clearly indicate what the NEGHC is doing and is prepared to do in efforts to recruit 2-3 new Family Physicians to our community

Summary highlights from our 2023 presentation . . .

- By 2026, 1 in 4 residents in Ontario will be without a Primary Care Physician
- TBM is the fastest growing community in Grey county but also has one of the greatest shortages of Family Doctors
- Construction of 5,200 dwellings in TBM have been approved since 2022, forecasting a need for 7 new doctors to support the population increase. (Does not include impact of the Campus of Care)
- Currently, 27% of our current physicians in the region are 60+ years and are considering retirement.



Highlights Contd. . . .

- TBM use of the Emergency Dept has increased by over 26% since 2022
- Provincial initiatives to date have not been effective forcing many municipalities to take a more active role in finding solutions
- Most Recent Resident Satisfaction Survey indicated that 76% of respondents indicated that access to a Family Health Team was a priority.
- TBM municipal govt. needs to consider taking a more active role in physician recruitment in order to support the future needs of the residents





Current Scenario of Family Physicians . . .

- 27% of Family Physicians in our Region are 60 years of age or older and therefore are nearing retirement
 - Due to their roster size, they cannot be replaced on a one-for-one basis
- **NO** Family Physicians are currently accepting new patients, except in very rare cases, when they may have treated a patient in an Emergency Department and require extensive follow-up given chronic conditions
- **NO** net new Family Physicians have been recruited to the area in the last decade
- The number of Family Physicians needed in our Region now is in excess of 20

Source: White Paper, Creating and Sustaining Access to Primary Care in South Georgian Bay Region, 2021



What have we learned about what are some of the issues facing new Family Physicians location decisions

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- Education Debt
- Work / Life balance which impacts the patient load that they are willing to carry
- Life partner careers and cultural needs
- Housing and Office costs
- Healthcare system compensation model
- Access to professional support

One of the biggest obstacles facing doctor recruitment to our community . . .

- **LACK OF DOCTOR ACCESS TO A LOCAL “FAMILY HEALTH TEAM” (FHT)**





Value of a Comprehensive Team Based Care provided by a Family Health Team

Primary care teams provide value for money by speeding up access to care and offering a wider range of programs and services to promote health and manage chronic disease.

- Comprehensive primary care is the foundation of a high quality, sustainable and integrated health care system.
- Evidence demonstrates that investments in a robust primary health care system lead to a higher performing health system with better patient outcomes and less costs. And it will keep people out of the hospital hallways by giving them the care they need closer to home.
- A very small number of new teams have been established in the last decade, expansion funding is limited and sporadic:
- TBMs has NOT benefited from either round of expressions of interest for funding in June or August 2023, which were awarded earlier this year.

What is the NEGHC prepared to do . . .

- Volunteer to participate in a working group to advise and recommend actions to council
- Insure ready access to our facilities for potential new doctors
- Look for ways within our financial constraints that can provide rent incentives for new doctors locating in our community
- Continue our efforts to lobby through the Healthcare system and ministry to expand the Owen Sound Family Health team to TBM





In Our Opinion, the TBM should consider some of the following as an aid to physician recruitment . . .

- Financial Incentives to assist in reducing medical education debt
- Affordable and appropriate housing solutions for new doctors for at least their initial five year term

Physician Recruitment and Retention

Our Ask Today Is . . .

For a Motion which addresses the following:

- Direct staff to be responsible for the health file and establish a working group to research and recommend action to council
- Include dedicated funding in the 2025 budget and beyond in excess of the current \$50,000.
- Working group to be composed of a combination of staff members and interested members of the community to work with the local MPPs' to seek expansion of a FHT to our community

Questions

