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April 21, 2026

RESPONSE: Town of Blue Mountains Council

The Municipality of the Town of Blue Mountains serves as the primary location for two distinct physician groups, the Meaford Thornbury Family Health Organization (FHO), and the Clarksburg Physician Group. The Clarksburg Physician Group is affiliated with the Georgian Bay Family Health Team and the Meaford Thornbury FHO is affiliated in an interim capacity with the Kincardine Family Health Team. With there being no restriction placed on residents as to where they source primary healthcare, residents in TBM are served by a much wider network of primary health care teams.

Provincially allocated 2025/2026 Interprofessional Primary Care Team (IPCT) funding has been distributed across Ontario and many primary health care teams have benefitted from it. Grey Bruce received 20% of it's 2025/2026 proposal funding ask. A requirement of this funding was for it to flow through an established primary healthcare organization (Family Health Team or Community Health Centre). Funding allocated to the Meaford Thornbury FHO in the 2025/2026 fiscal year flowed through the Kincardine Family Health Team (FHT) and will continue to flow through KFHT on an annual basis until a permanent affiliation with a primary care organization is established by the Meaford Thornbury FHO.

OHTs throughout Ontario are working collaboratively with family physicians, nurse practitioners and primary care organization leaders within the broad geographic areas they represent to address attachment challenges and pressures across communities through the IPCT funding program, supporting the provincial direction to ensure that all residents are connected by 2029.

As per the information shared and noting that TBM residents are served by multiple Primary Healthcare teams, just over $2.1M was received in 2025 through the IPCT program across Grey and Bruce. Local to TBM, funding was allocated to the Meaford and Thornbury FHO to support an additional Nurse Practitioner and an additional Medical Office Assistant. These were roles identified by the Meaford and Thornbury FHO as required supports toward attaching more patients. Alongside the other teams that received funding, the outcome anticipated through these increased resources is the attachment of up to 2,400 unattached residents in the N0H postcode area.

The Grey Bruce OHT is committed to region wide partnership and collaboration to support the provincial government's mandates for primary care attachment. The OHT will continue to work with municipalities to understand community needs, and work collaboratively with physicians and health care teams to understand how they can address these needs and what resources are

required to support attachment. The OHT will then work with the province to secure funding to meet those resource gaps to help enable local health care organizations to increase their allied health provider compliment to address community needs. We continue to look forward to working with Grey and Bruce County, and their member municipalities in supporting this work.

As shared in the update, one of the most important things we are seeking municipal support in currently in encouraging municipalities to raise awareness of Health Care Connects and encourage residents to sign up if they are unattached or attached in another area that is not convenient for them. Health Care Connects is the primary tool that the province uses to identify community needs for primary healthcare and a key way in which resources are allocated. The most effective way that municipalities can help with improving attachment resourcing in their communities at the minute is through championing the use of health care connect and encouraging residents to sign up where they need to be connected with a primary healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Johnston
Executive Director, GBOHT