

Ministry of Health

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January 27, 2025

\$1.8 Billion Investment Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan

To our valued partners,

I want to thank you for your dedication to primary care in Ontario. Through our initial weeks of engagement, we have been encouraged by the enthusiasm, collaboration, and feedback we have received as we work together towards our shared goals.

To continue to build on the progress the province has achieved to provide more people with the right care, in the right place, no matter where they live, the Ontario government is investing a historic \$1.8 billion to implement Ontario's Primary Care Action Team's plan to connect every person in Ontario primary care by 2029. Through this plan, Ontario's Primary Care Action Team will use the government's historic investment to implement its action plan to build a primary care system that draws on best-in-class models from across the province and connects everyone to a primary care team, made up of a family physician or nurse practitioner and other health care professionals such as nurses, physician assistants, social workers, physiotherapists and more.

As a next step, Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan will implement a broad series of initiatives in collaboration with primary care leaders and health system partners governed by three pillars: Connecting Every Person to a Primary Care Team, Making Primary Care More Connected and Convenient and Supporting Primary Care Providers. Key initiatives include:

- Creating and expanding 305 additional teams to attach approximately two million people to primary care, including more than \$235 million in 2025-26 to establish and expand 80 additional primary care teams across the province, attaching 300,000 more people to primary care this year.
- Attach everyone currently on the Health Care Connect waitlist (as of January 1, 2025) to a family physician or nurse practitioner by Spring 2026.
- Modernize Health Care Connect to improve the user and clinician experience with the goal of working to establish a wait time target of no more than 12 months.

- Reduce the administrative burden by enhancing digital tools for clinicians and patients, improving patient navigation, reducing administrative burden, modernizing information sharing, and improving the referral process.
- Enhance digital tools for providers and patients, improving patient navigation, reducing administrative burden, modernizing information sharing and improving the referral process.
- Introduce targeted strategies to recruit and retain the workforce needed to support primary care providers and teams, including family doctors, nurse practitioners and other allied health care professionals. This includes continuing to address administrative burden with digital tools, targeted recruitment and retention strategies for northern and rural communities, and ensuring all of Ontario's highly qualified health care professionals can work to their full scope of practice.

This announcement is the first step of our work together, to build on our progress from last February which added and expanded 78 primary care teams across the province.

We look forward to continued engagement and collaboration with our partners to further develop, and implement, our action plan. Together, we can build a system of care that connects people to timely, comprehensive primary care, no matter where they live.

Thank you in advance for your support and participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones'.

Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Philpott'.

Dr. Jane Philpott
Chair, Primary Care Action Team