

Delivery of Primary Health Care being strengthened in Scarborough

Primary health care providers working together to expand access and equity

NEWS

May 4, 2018

The Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) was joined by representatives from a number of Scarborough primary care provider organizations today as MPP for Scarborough Guildwood Mitzie Hunter announced that the government of Ontario is continuing to provide more people with better access to high-quality health care closer to home.

MPP Hunter announced that Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC), as the lead agency for a collaboration of primary care providers that includes the Scarborough Academic Family Health Team, East GTA Family Health Team, TAIBU Community Health Centre, Hong Fook Mental Health Association and Providence Healthcare as well as leadership from other primary care groups including the Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care (CCRIHC) will receive \$1,950,000 to further strengthen the delivery of collaborative interprofessional primary health care across an expanded group of interprofessional primary health care providers.

Today's announcement was in addition to investments [announced by the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on April 4th](#), when the Minister and MPP Soo Wong announced that the CCRIHC and SCHC, working in collaboration with its primary health care partners, were receiving new funding to enhance access to comprehensive primary care for complex and vulnerable clients in the area.

With today's announcement, Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities, CCRIHC and the collaborative, working in partnership with the Central East LHIN, will be creating a primary care community of practice, with the goal of being inclusive of all primary health care providers and practice types in Scarborough North and Scarborough South sub-regions.

In partnership with the Central East LHIN, this primary care community of practice will not only guide the implementation of the new interprofessional teams and the associated programs, but will help design and develop a strong, organized and integrated primary care system in the Scarborough area. The expansion of the interprofessional care teams in Scarborough will further enhance health equity, quality, and patient-centered care and reduce barriers for complex and vulnerable populations while helping provide access to patients without a regular primary care provider.

QUOTES

“Our government is committed to ensuring everyone in Ontario has access to high-quality primary care, close to home. Today’s investment will help expand access to interprofessional primary care teams and make sure residents in Scarborough get the care they need when they need it most.”

— Mitzie Hunter, MPP, Scarborough Guildwood

“I would like to thank the leadership of Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities and all of the primary health care organizations who have come together as a collaborative to advance equitable access to the benefits of interprofessional team-based care for all patients in Scarborough. The future development of a primary health care community of practice in Scarborough will support the ongoing transformation of the health care system being led by the LHIN as we support people to live healthier at home. The valuable learnings from this implementation will also benefit patients and primary health care communities of practice in other sub-regions within the Central East LHIN.”

- Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

“The staff and the Board of Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities are honoured to work with the LHIN and our primary health care colleagues in Scarborough to build on these recent investments in interprofessional team-based care and create a primary health care community of practice. As an organization we owe our beginnings to 13 community agencies, a core group of community leaders and countless volunteers who identified emerging health and social needs within Scarborough. Today’s announcement builds on that strong history as we continue to create a system of primary health care that delivers equitable access to all the residents of Scarborough.”

— Jeanie Joaquin, Chief Executive Officer, Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is creating new and expanded primary care programs and services in order to respond to the health and social service needs of communities across the province, including Franco-Ontarians, newcomers and seniors.
- In the 2017 Budget, the province made a commitment of \$15.5 million for 2017-18 and an additional \$27.8 million in 2018-19 to create and expand interprofessional primary care teams (Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, Community Health Centres) focusing on areas with the greatest needs.
- Ontario has also committed \$329.2 million over five years to recruit and retain interprofessional primary care professionals.
- There are currently 294 interprofessional care teams across Ontario delivering care to more than four million people.
- The province is providing \$23 million per year over three years to improve care coordination for complex patients through the [Health Links initiative](#).

LEARN MORE

- [Health Links](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)

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