

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **PRIMARY CARE SERVICES EXPAND WITH LAUNCH OF TRANS CARE CLINIC**

*Peterborough Family Health Team continues to enhance the local healthcare system by creating programs and bridging the gap in care for their patients*

PETERBOROUGH, ON – Peterborough Family Health Team (PFHT) launches the Trans Care Clinic, a nurse practitioner led clinic, operating once a week at the main building located on King Street in Peterborough. As a unique clinic in the Peterborough County, PFHT is well on the way to expanding services offered to their patients at the primary healthcare level.

The clinic underwent months of planning and extensive consultations with local organizations and subject matter experts such as PARN, Gender Journeys, CMHA, VON 360, Dr. Vanita Lokanathan and Sheena Howard, RN. PFHT's Trans Care Clinic offers services for transgender patients such as: counselling support, medical treatment initiation, hormone monitoring and additional individualized service and supports (i.e. surgical consultations).

The data that was collected during the development of the clinic identified 1 in every 200 people that are transgender. Additionally, evidence shows that roughly 70 per cent of trans Ontarians live outside of the Greater Toronto Area.

“We are incredibly happy to be able to help those in our community who have struggled in finding and accessing a specific type of care,” states Lori Richey, Executive Director of PFHT. “We are committed to delivering high-quality care to patients and to be a leader in the development of a wholistic health care system, which is evident through the programs and services we offer to our patients.”

Patients belonging to a PFHT family doctor can request a referral or self-refer to the clinic. Those who are not rostered with a PFHT family doctor may still contact PFHT for assistance in finding similar services available to them.

“The overarching goal of the Trans Care Clinic is to integrate this service back to the hands of the primary care providers; your family doctor,” states Mrs. Richey. “This clinic is only the first step while we continue to educate clinicians and better position ourselves to offer these services to patients.”

This initiative is made possible by the Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, a collaboration between the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Community Foundations of

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Canada, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast. The Greater Peterborough Health Services Foundation not only made the Trans Care Clinic possible with their kind donation, they also support patients in the community who rely on expect, compassionate care delivered by the Family Health Team.

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