

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clinic Expansion Enhances Access to Care for Growing Number of Unattached Patients

PETERBOROUGH, ON – Early this year, the PFHT Health Clinic acquired a new clinic space with additional exam rooms allowing it to expand appointments for Peterborough city and county residents who do not have a family doctor in Ontario. This new clinic space at 555 George Street North is the main location for “unattached services” while the King Street location continues to operate and support more niche services such as well babies.

The PFHT Health Clinic is a response to the growing need for healthcare access among residents of Peterborough city and county who are currently “unattached”—without a permanent family doctor or nurse practitioner. This clinic offers in-person, same-day or next-day care to those who would otherwise have limited options.

“Despite a base budget that has not increased in many years, we’ve strategically managed to run the clinic within the existing funding and the access clinic physicians have to bill OHIP for their services,” said Duff Sprague, CEO of Peterborough Family Health Team.

“We took a coordinated approach to provide essential care to unattached patients. Our PFHT Health Clinic offers a much less expensive and more appropriate alternative to the only other in-person choice in the area – hospital emergency departments.”

Peterborough FHT is grateful to many for making the expansion possible. The Peterborough Ontario Health Team (OHT) has committed to covering the clinic’s rent until September 1, 2025, and our Director of Operations, the Patient Services Supervisor as well as the City’s physician recruiter have donated their personal time to preparation of the space, including painting, deep cleaning, transporting equipment and other necessary setup efforts. We also extend our thanks to Whelan’s Floor for donating and installing replacement flooring in part of the clinic, and to Rishor Real Estate Inc. for a 50 per cent rent reduction for the first 12 months.

The PFHT Health Clinic has rendered significant cost savings for the healthcare system. From April 1, 2024, to early March, we estimate \$370,804 in savings due to hospital emergency room diversions, and these savings are based on the patient being assessed at the emergency department and do not include any testing procedures or specialist care. Additionally, cancer screenings conducted at the clinic not only save costs for the system but also open a door to care for the unattached patient.

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