



FEBRUARY 2024

- HOW PRIMARY CARE IS EXPECTED TO ORGANIZE INTO NETWORKS WITHIN OHTS
- CANCER SCREENING INITIATIVE
- PRIMARY CARE AND PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS
- PRIMARY CARE ADVOCACY

Kaniatarowanéhne Kaniatarí:io Ata'karitéhtshera Raotinèn:ra

The Great River Insider

A Newsletter for Primary Care Providers of the Great River Ontario Health Team (OHT)

How primary care is expected to organize into networks within OHTs

Ontario Health (OH) held a webinar on January 24th to provide an overview of the vision for **Primary Care Networks (PCNs)** in OHTs. Our Primary Care and Physician Association currently serves the purpose of a PCN in it's work with the OHT, but it is also intended to address priorities that are important to members. Elsewhere in the province, some OHTs have already established networks that are **organized and actively involved**, as a collective, in the co-design of the work of the OHT. How our PCN will evolve and mature will require input from everyone to meet the needs of all types of practices and the patients we serve. For now, the OHT's Primary Health Care Clinicians Table is acting as the executive committee for the PCN. If you are interested in becoming active in the PCN, reach out to Dr. Crabtree or the OHT directly. Over time, OHTs are expected to support their PCN to align with OH's guiding principles, vision, objectives and functions outlined in the **Guidance Document**.



[Webinar recording](#)

[Slide deck](#)

[PCN readiness assessment template](#)

\$5000 grants available* Apply today!
greatriverdocs.ca

Find your healthcare career in
SDG Counties
ONTARIO

Great River DOCS

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

Date My County

The Great River OHT is thrilled to partner with the United Counties of SDG for the **Date My County: Great River Docs** medical recruitment campaign. As an incentive to help attract physicians, physician assistants, nurses and NPs to the region, SDG Counties is offering five, \$5,000 cash incentives to eligible applicants who sign employment contracts within our region.

For more information visit www.greatriverdocs.ca.

Cancer Screening Initiative



On February 3rd, the Great River OHT, in collaboration with the Seaway Valley Community Health Centre and the Champlain Cancer Screening Program, held its second **Cancer Screening Day**. During this day, sixty-four individuals received cancer screening. We were very fortunate to have staff, clinicians and volunteers provide support for screening in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. It was a busy day, and many clients expressed their gratitude for this cancer screening opportunity.

Thank you to all OHT members who took part in the planning and implementation of both events to date. This has been an amazing collaborative effort to better meet the healthcare needs of the people in our community. A special thanks to Seaway Valley CHC for offering the space to hold the event once again!

PRIMARY CARE AND PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS



On November 7th, the Great River OHT Primary Care and Physician Association brought together family physicians, NPs, senior administrators, and elected officials to address the pressing issue of the primary care crisis affecting our region. There was a robust and open discussion with attendees making verbal commitments to fostering collaboration and finding solutions to the healthcare challenges facing our communities. [Learn more.](#)

Additionally, some next steps were identified:

1) Meet with local MPPs to actively involve them in our work.

- Dr. Crabtree met with Nolan Quinn and Stephane Sarrazin in December and received a warm welcome and support for the need to invest in primary care to improve overall health for their constituents.
- Administrative leaders from the team-based models presented at the Pre-Budget meeting held in Cornwall in January and also received positive feedback regarding the need for equitable funding in the primary care sector to support recruitment and retention of staff, NPs and physicians.

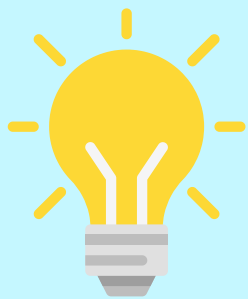
2) Need for improved tools and understanding of supports and services that are available to family physicians and NPs who may not be in a fully integrated team-based model.

- A webinar on January 17th provided information about the updated E2P toolbar to make it easier to care for patients with Diabetes, Heart Failure and Anxiety/Depression. Seaway Valley CHC and CSC de l'Estrie shared programs that are available to anyone in the community, regardless of attachment.
 - 🎧 [Recording](#) / [Slide deck](#)
- A second webinar was held on January 18th to showcase how Point Click Care users (long-term care EMR) can pull data from Epic and Cerner hospitals (Meditech coming soon!) in our region to support better care for their LTC patients.
 - 🎧 [Recording](#) / [Slide deck](#)

PRIMARY CARE ADVOCACY

Primary care leaders in the OHT have been working together for several months to be able to increase the ability for every person in our population to a Primary Care Team. This means **expanding the access to team-based care to all family physicians, pediatricians, NPs and to people they serve**, regardless of funding model. Some of the work has involved funding applications to the **Expanding and Enhancing Interprofessional Primary Care fund**, and to the **Innovation fund**.

Outcomes from these funding requests are long past the expected announcement dates. Some of our plans are dependent on funding, but some programs are working together, even in the absence of funding, to streamline referrals and improve access to services.



Great River OHT Has an Idea to Improve Primary Care in the Cornwall Region

Some of the work has included advocacy for these ideas. **Dr. Crabtree co-wrote an Op-Ed with the OCFP and the OHT Primary Care administrative leaders** which has been published in several news venues and been further amplified with the **pre-budget submission information** through media interviews.

**Great
RIVER**
ONTARIO
HEALTH TEAM



ÉQUIPE SANTÉ
ONTARIO DU
**Grand
FLEUVE**