



MAY 2025

- INTERPROFESSIONAL PRIMARY CARE (IPC) TEAM EXPANSION UPDATE
- WELCOMING THE MCA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
- APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARY NETWORK EVENT

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)

### IPC Team Expansion Update

In Spring 2025, the Government of Ontario launched a targeted expansion of interprofessional primary care (IPC) teams as part of its *Your Health* plan, investing \$1.8 billion to improve access and to attach every resident to primary care by 2029. Round 1 of proposal opportunities makes up to \$235 million of this funding available in 2025-26 and aims to establish or expand up to 80 primary care teams focused on underserved postal codes. Eligible models include Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, and Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations.

Following the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT) webinar on April 11 ([news release](#) | [recording](#)), the four team-based models within our OHT—Seaway Valley CHC, CSC de l'Estrie, Glengarry NPLC, and Rideau St. Lawrence FHT—joined forces with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health as partners to submit a collaborative proposal. Building on the momentum of securing IPC funding in 2023-24, the group is well-positioned to expand its efforts. For this round, the team is requesting approximately \$11.5 million to attach 13,000 people to a primary care provider, with a focus on the K6H and K0C postal code areas identified by Ontario Health as our target areas. The proposal includes funding for 14 NPs, 6.5 MDs, and a range of allied health professionals.



#### RESOURCES & TOOLS

This funding will also support the sustainability and expansion of key initiatives such as the Best Care program for chronic disease management, the PCN Nurse project, and other valuable resources designed to assist medical practices that are not part of a team-based model.



#### NEXT ROUND

Future funding rounds are expected, including one this fall.

Practices that may be interested in becoming part of the next funding round should reach out to their group's PCN Steering Committee member or to Dr. Marilyn Crabtree at [mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca](mailto:mcrabtree@wdmh.on.ca).

### WELCOMING THE MCA'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

We are pleased to welcome the participation of the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne's Department of Health in this round of the IPC Team Expansion proposal. Their collaboration marks a significant step forward in strengthening partnerships and ensuring that Indigenous communities are meaningfully included in efforts to improve access to primary care. By joining forces, we aim to advance more integrated health and social services programs tailored to the unique needs of the Indigenous population living both on the island and throughout the surrounding community. This partnership supports a shared commitment to culturally safe, accessible, and community-driven care, aligning with broader goals to enhance equity and responsiveness in Ontario's primary care system.

We look forward to continuing this important work together in the spirit of collaboration, respect and as part of our commitment to actively respond to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

## APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> PCN EVENT

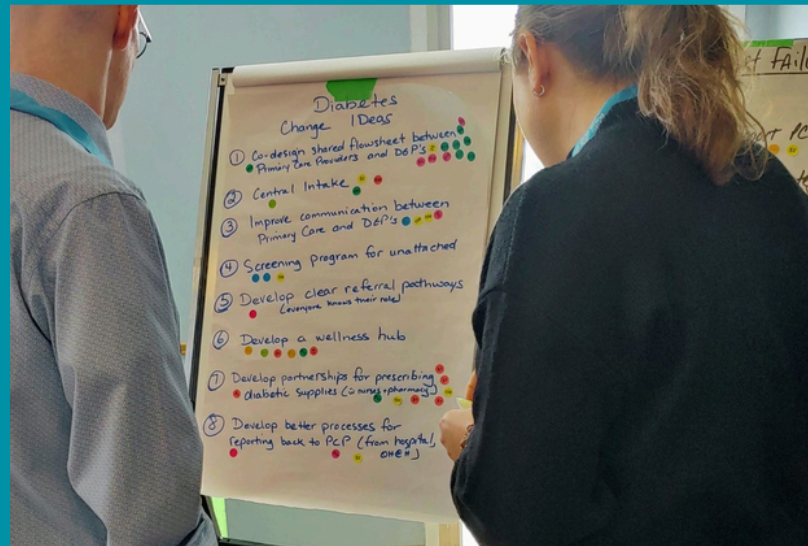
On April 10<sup>th</sup>, the Great River OHT brought together more than 45 dedicated family physicians and nurse practitioners, with heart failure and diabetes professionals, for a dynamic Primary Care Network (PCN) meeting at the Royal Canadian Air Force Association in Cornwall. The event focused on gathering feedback on integrated care pathways for patients with diabetes and heart failure through co-design sessions.

### Top 3—Change Ideas for **Heart Failure** Care:

- #1 Best Care to support primary care clinics
- #2 Develop a wellness hub
- #3 Central intake for heart failure

### Top 3—Change Ideas for **Diabetes** Care:

- #1 Develop a wellness hub
- #2 Co-design shared flowsheet between primary care providers and diabetes education programs
- #3 Central intake for diabetes



## PRIMARY CARE NETWORK RESOURCES

The event also showcased a range of free support resources for clinics, including the Best Care program for chronic disease management, Mohawk Medbuy, access to a Practice Facilitator from the eHealth Centre of Excellence, and the PCN Nurse project. As a result of the event, four additional physicians joined our OHT as members in order to access the support of the PCN Nurse for their patients living with diabetes. **[Click here to learn more about the Great River OHT Primary Care Network resources.](#)** Contact Dr. Marilyn Crabtree via **[email](#)** or **[WhatsApp](#)** for more information on any of these programs.

For more information about the Practice Facilitator, contact Angela Martin via **[email](#)** or at 519-500-9266. This eHealth Centre of Excellence's service is available to help primary care clinics optimize their workflows and digital processes (assistance with Ocean, e-Referral, e-Consult, E2P Toolbar for Chronic Disease, AI Scribe support, automation tools like the Cody Bot, etc.).

## OPTIMISM IN MEDICINE

To conclude the day, attendees enjoyed meaningful networking and an inspiring keynote on "Optimism in Medicine" by Dr. Dominik Nowak, President of the Ontario Medical Association.

**A big thank you to everyone who joined us and continues to be a leading voice in shaping the future of healthcare in our region!**

