



**EDWARDSBURGH
CARDINAL**

PRESCOTT
EST 1784
THE FORT TOWN

**SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS'
TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA
TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL
TOWN OF PRESCOTT**

Augusta Fire Rescue Station 1, Maitland, ON

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

6:30 p.m.

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1. Welcome and Introductions
 2. Call to Order
 3. Approval of the Agenda

Recommendation

THAT the agenda for the Special Tri-Council meeting of the Township of Augusta, Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, and Town of Prescott be approved as presented.

4. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

Recommendation

THAT the minutes from the May 25, 2023, Tri-Council meeting be approved as presented.

5. Declarations of Interest
6. Opening Statements from Mayor Deschamps, Mayor Shankar, and Mayor Shaver
7. Delegations & Presentations
 - a. Bonnie Pidgeon Cougler, South Grenville Foodbank – 2024 Cup Challenge
 - b. Dinny Mathew, Executive Director – Prescott Medical Center

8. Roundtable

9. Adjournment

Recommendation

That the meeting be adjourned.



Prescott Family Health Team and Prescott Family Medical Associates

By: Dr. Dinny Mathew, Executive Director



Purpose of Presentation

- To provide background information on how Prescott's Family Medicine clinic operates
- To explain how Prescott Family Health Team (PFHT) and Prescott Family Medical Associates (PFMA) work together to provide high-quality care for our community
- To address the challenges we are facing - real and serious
- To explain how the towns and PFHT/PFMA can work together to make a difference

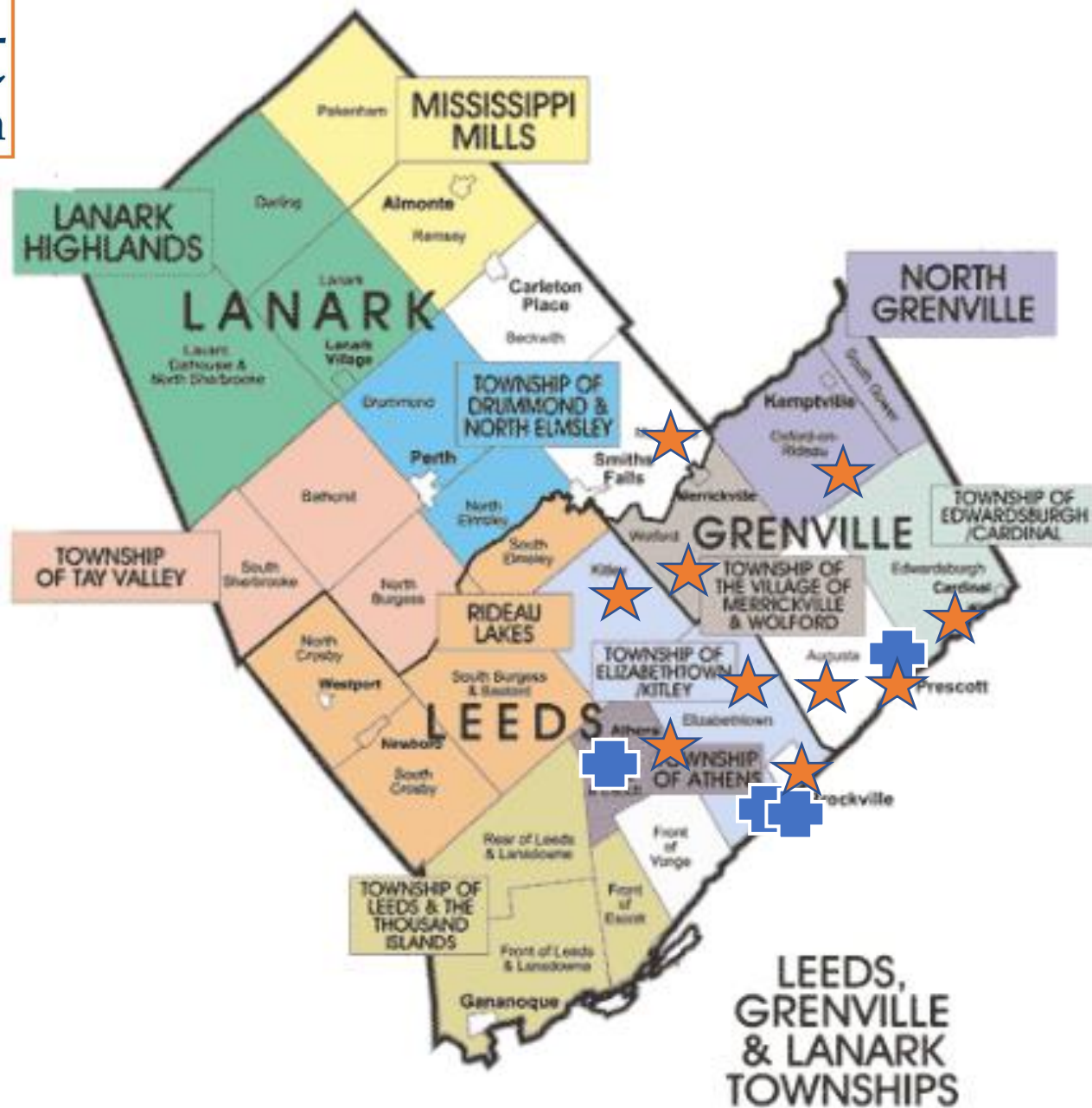


Introduction

- The Family Medicine clinic in Prescott started with a single-physician practice in 1968
- In 2007, Prescott Family Health Team (PFHT) was founded
- PFHT is a non-profit organization

Background: Family Health Teams (FHTs)

- Family Health Teams (FHTs) are non-profit primary healthcare organizations funded by the Ministry of Health (MOH)
- FHTs were created in 2005 to expand access to comprehensive primary care services across Ontario.
 - ~187 FHTs, serving 3.4 million Ontarians
- FHTs focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and chronic disease management through a team of interdisciplinary allied healthcare workers
- All FHTs must be affiliated with one or more groups of Family Physicians (FHO)



★ PFHT Patient Locations

✚ Family Health Teams in the region



Physician Group(s)

- PFHT is affiliated with Prescott FHO (Family Health Organization)
 - Dr. Nikhil Bhatt
 - Dr. Matthew Cooke
 - Dr. Ioannis Felemegos
- Together they form a cost-sharing partnership called Prescott Family Medical Associates (PFMA)
- Care for approx. 5200 patients (large patient rosters!)
- Their patients also have free access to PFHT services



PFHT and PFMA staff

- Team Members:
 - ✓ Executive director (ED)
 - ✓ Assistant to the ED
 - ✓ Nurse practitioner (NP)
 - ✓ Social worker
 - ✓ Dietician
 - ✓ Four nurses
 - ✓ Receptionist
 - ✓ Billing administrator, and
 - ✓ Physician Assistant (PA)
- Majority of our staff are shared employees of PFHT and PFMA



Team's Senior Leadership

PFHT

The Board of Directors:
Physicians and
Community Members

Executive Director: The
overall direction of the
organization, finances, and
HR

PFMA

The three Physicians:

- ✓ Commute from other cities/
provinces

Executive Director: Finances
and HR

Services offered Together

- Primary health care services
- Preventative Programs
 - COPD/Lung Health Management
 - Hypertension Management
 - Weight Management
 - Diabetes Management
 - Smoking Cessation
 - Immunizations
- Social Services
 - Income Support
 - Mental Health and Addictions counselling
- Access to Specialists (Gynecology, Internal Medicine and Psychiatry)
- PFHT is one of the smallest FHTs in Ontario and is very well supported for its size, keeping these services local



Needs Assessment



Current Population of Towns:

Town of Prescott ~ 4000

Township of Edwardsburg Cardinal ~ 7500

Augusta Township ~ 7300

*Population growth is projected

**Ontario's aging population is already straining health care resources and is increasing health care system utilization

***Lack of family physicians and upcoming retirements will exacerbate accessibility issues

The primary care sector is overloaded!



Family Physician Related Statistics

- 65% of Family Physicians in Ontario are considering leaving the profession or reducing their hours in the next five years due to burnout (OCFP, 2023)
- Almost 40% of Family Physicians are retiring in the next five years (CBC News, 2024)
- Decline in the number of medicine students identifying family medicine as their first choice (CBC News, 2023)
- There were 268 unfilled residency positions in family medicine in 2023 and 252 in 2024 (CFPC 2023/2024)
- The number of patients without a primary care provider is increasing daily
- PFMA wait list has over 500 patients!

(Ontario College of Family Physicians, 2023; CBC News, 2023; CBC News, 2024, Canadian College of Family Physicians)

Critical Issues at Hand

- Lack of primary care services for many people in our community
- Growing burden of documentation and paperwork for physicians
- Limited physician supply
- Difficulties in physician recruitment
- **Increasing operating costs for medical practices
- Lack of team-based care in the communities
- Widening wage gap for staff in primary care compared to other health sectors
- Physicians are exhausted and burned out, and so are our other staff!

We need investments in primary care!

*** Explained in the next slide*

- **Overhead costs include:
 - ✓ Employees' payroll, including for shared employees and other related expenses
 - ✓ Other operating expenses like rent, property taxes, utilities, office equipment, medical supplies, electronic medical records, and clinic maintenance costs
 - ✓ Employees' medical benefit costs and retention and recruitment costs

It is essential to note that our doctors have chosen to pay out of pocket for a PA to improve access for their patients, considering the growing needs of the community

Inflation has caused overhead expenses to rise at a greater rate than physician compensation (CBC, March 2024)

For our group, the overhead expenses exceed 30% of the total income

Serious Consequences



- Physicians may leave Prescott FHO
- Family Health Team may get dissolved
- Employees may lose their jobs
- Difficulty in physician recruitment
- Patients may lose access to care



Population Health Risk



We Need Your **HELP!**

- To lower our costs
- To develop a robust physician recruitment plan
- To advocate for primary care workers
- To advocate for more investment in the primary care sector and team-based care
- To ensure uninterrupted care for our patients

Thank
you!!!

References

- New Survey Shows Full-Blown Crisis in Family Medicine. (2023, May 30). Ontario College of Family Physicians. Retrieved from <https://ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/news/new-survey-shows-full-blown-crisis-in-family-medicine/>.
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- Medical students' interest in being family doctors on decline even as provinces boost training spots. (2023, April 5). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/medical-students-family-doctors-declining-interest-1.6801372>.
- Family doctor shortage affects every region and is getting worse, Ontario Medical Association says. (2024, January 29). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/family-doctor-shortage-oma-1.7097935>.
- Want more family doctors in Ontario? Pay them better, say physicians. (2024, March 11). Retrieved from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-family-doctors-pay-compensation-ohip-billing-fees-1.7137716>.
- Find Data on Cities & Towns Across North America. Townfolio. (2024). Retrieved from <https://townfolio.co/find-community-data?country=CA®ion=ON&population=all&keyword=Edwardsburgh+Cardinal>.