
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9th, 2019

HEALTH CARE LEADERS and ELECTED OFFICIALS MEET to DISCUSS ONTARIO HEALTH TEAMS
The County of Renfrew Hosts Roundtable Seeking Collaboration

On Thursday more than 25 primary health-care service leaders and elected officials from across Renfrew County came together for a roundtable meeting hosted by the County of Renfrew at Bonnechere Manor Long-Term Care Home.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring the four Ontario Health Team applicants in our region together to present on their individual applications and to explore the possibility of forming a collaborative between the applicants. The focus of such collaboration would also be an opportunity for elected officials to support the advancement of applications that ensure a strong health service delivery model for all of Renfrew County that is patient centered and would provide needed services to the whole community.

Warden of the County of Renfrew, Jennifer Murphy said; *“Today was an opportunity for this group to lead the way, to set an example of patient first primary care that our residents and our province can hold high and be proud of. It is my hope that these organizations along with the County of Renfrew will strongly consider establishing a collaboration forum to ensure that we continue to support our whole community in the delivery of rural and locally focused health care. I look forward to continuing the dialogue and supporting the applicants on a collaborative approach.”*

Chair of the County of Renfrew Health Committee and the Provincial Modernization Ad Hoc Committee, Michael Donohue shared this comment; *“Today’s discussion was to explore the potential to pool our efforts, successes and ideas to create an opportunity that supports the efforts of our community in the application process and ultimately creates services tailored to our community’s rural needs. As municipal elected officials, we represent the individual and collective interests of our constituents, across all municipalities in Renfrew County. Health Care is of primary concern to our residents. We believe that a collaborative approach to health service delivery across Renfrew County improves patient experience and strengthens our community as a whole.”*

As the meeting concluded, the group indicated an interest to move ahead towards a second meeting once each of the applicants have had time to consult further with their Ministry of Health contacts on their applications. Overall, the impression was that the applicants are seeking some form of collaboration and appreciated the opportunity to come together in one room to discuss patient centered health care in Renfrew County.

For More Information Please Contact:

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Backgrounder

What are Ontario Health Teams?

The Ontario government is building a connected health care system centred around patients, families and caregivers. These changes will strengthen local services, making it easier for patients to navigate the system and transition between providers.

Ontario Health Teams are being introduced to provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under Ontario Health Teams, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) will work as one coordinated team - no matter where they provide care.

County of Renfrew Provincial Modernization Ad Hoc Committee

On April 11, 2019, Ontario PC Government tabled its first budget that set the stage for the transformation of how government does business; setting out the broad objectives within an austerity framework. It is anticipated that over the next three years the Government will continue to explore all avenues to drive efficiencies, deliver costs savings and modernize government services. It is clear that every program, every transfer, every cent of government spending will continue to be reviewed with a critical lens.

The County of Renfrew is deeply invested in social services, long-term care, paramedic services and public health. This level of investment has continually evolved to adapt to local needs and dynamics, and is not broadly understood by the public, province or stakeholders.

In response to the Province of Ontario proposed changes to Health-care, Long-Term Care and Social services, county council established the Provincial Modernization Ad Hoc Committee. With the direction to:

- To undertake a review of the proposed changes by the Province to paramedic services, long term care and public health and social services.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will review the County of Renfrew's role in Health and Social Services providing recommendations to County Council.
- Ad Hoc Committee will examine the impacts of Provincial program structural changes and funding levels. The Committee will also provide recommendations on the following:
 1. County Council policy positions on program changes
 2. County of Renfrew role within the Ontario Health Team model
 3. Approaches to strategic communications to achieve desired outcomes.
- To recommend to County Council a response to ongoing Provincial program changes and funding reductions, while ensuring the delivery of vital, high value services to residents and ratepayers of the County of Renfrew.

County of Renfrew is a Patient Centred Health Services Provider

- The County of Renfrew provides a county wide paramedic service that has been internationally recognized for innovative approaches to community paramedicine.

- The County of Renfrew as an organization is a primary health-care provider with more than 6 decades of delivering long-term care at Miramichi Lodge and Bonnechere Manor.
- Long-term Care and Paramedic Services combined with services such as Ontario Works, Housing, and Child Care take a primary care patient first approach that really stretches from cradle to grave.
- The County of Renfrew invests approx \$50million annually in support of health-care services across Renfrew County.
- The County of Renfrew has been the largest municipal funder of health protection and promotion through the Renfrew County and District Health Unit since the County was originally declared a Health Unit in 1964.

Ontario Health Team Applicant's

Currently all four Ontario Health Team Applications in Renfrew County have been designated “in development” by the Ministry of Health. This designation refers to those teams with participants who represent a continuum of care and have demonstrated a commitment to the Ontario Health Team model. Though they are not yet ready to complete a full application, they have been encouraged by the Ministry of Health to prepare for a future full application submission.

These four applicants are:

1. “The Upper Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team” –Pembroke Regional Hospital, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, and partners.
2. “Highway 60 Health Team” -Renfrew Victoria Hospital, St Francis Memorial Hospital (Barry’s Bay), and partners.
3. “Three Rivers OHT” -Arnprior Regional Health and partners.
4. “North Renfrew Health” Deep River Hospital and partners.