

For Immediate Release

Sunset Country Family Health Team Supports Call for Action on Rural Generalist Care Funding

Kenora, ON – September 9, 2024 - The Sunset Country Family Health Team stands in solidarity with The Clinical Advisory of the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team, Ogimaawabiitong (Kenora Chiefs Advisory), and the Lake of the Woods District Hospital in our urgent call to the Ministry of Health for a new funding model for Rural Generalist Care in the Kenora area. As a vital member of the primary care sector of healthcare providers in the region, we echo the concerns raised about the growing physician shortage and the critical threat this poses to the health and well-being of our communities.

The current healthcare crisis jeopardizes our ability to offer consistent care to all our community members, including remote and underserved communities. As the Executive Lead of the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team (ANHP OHT), we are deeply committed to advocating sustainable solutions to address recruitment and retention challenges for physicians in our rural and First Nation communities. Without a timely response from the Ministry of Health, we can see further erosion of healthcare services, including the potential closure of the Lake of the Woods District Hospital Emergency Department, which would be devastating for the entire region.

We support the call for the Ministry of Health to agree to and fund the proposed Rural Generalist Care model. This model ensures equitable access to healthcare services for all, with particular attention to the health inequities faced by those living in our rural and First Nations communities. Developed collaboratively by local physicians, healthcare organizations, and First Nations leadership, it represents the best path forward to secure long-term, continuous care for the people of Kenora and surrounding areas.

The Sunset Country Family Health Team joins our healthcare partners in urging the Ministry of Health to act swiftly to support this locally-driven solution and prevent further deterioration of healthcare services in our region.

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About Sunset Country Family Health Team:

The Sunset Country Family Health Team provides comprehensive primary healthcare services to the residents of the Kenora area, working closely with community partners to improve access to care and support health equity initiatives, especially in collaboration with the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team.

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