



Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P.

Northumberland-Quinte West

For Immediate Release

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**NEW FAMILY HEALTH TEAM COMING TO NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland Hills FHT one of 30 new practices across Ontario**

A new Family Health Team in Northumberland is expected to provide over 39,200 patients with greater access to family health services.

Family Health Teams are made up of a team of doctors and other healthcare providers such as nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers and dietitians all working together. They provide quality team-based care and will attach more patients in Northumberland to a family doctor. They also help reduce demand on hospital emergency departments by providing non-emergency care.

There are currently 170 Family Health Teams across the province providing care to over 2.3 million Ontarians and serving over 393,000 previously unattached patients. Today's announcement is part of the addition of 30 new teams across the province which fulfills Ontario's commitment to create 200 [Family Health Teams](#).

Health care is one of our greatest economic advantages. This announcement is a key part of the government's [Open Ontario Plan](#) to provide more access to health care services while improving quality and accountability for patients.

QUOTES

"A new Family Health Team for West Northumberland, along with our other two Family Health Teams already operational in both Brighton and Campbellford, will further enhance the excellent quality of care patients already receive in Northumberland-Quinte West. I congratulate all those involved in making this Family Health Team a reality." - Lou Rinaldi, M.P.P., Northumberland-Quinte West

"What makes these Family Health Teams so valuable is that each one is developed with the needs of the community in mind. These additional 30 new teams will provide even greater access to quality health care for people in the community." - Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

"I am very pleased that the Northumberland Hills Family Health Team has received approval from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and that West Northumberland has been chosen to be a part of this important announcement that will both enhance patient care and patient services locally. I know Lou is always advocating on our behalf and I extend our thanks to him again today." - Peter Delanty, Warden – County of Northumberland

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“On behalf of 25 local family physicians who applied for a Family Health Team we are very pleased that the Minister of Health has chosen to partner with us to help improve the care we provide to the citizens of Northumberland County. Creation of the Northumberland Hills FHT will ensure an ongoing enhanced level of primary care for our current and future patients by co-ordinating with new allied health professionals such as Nurse Practitioners that we hope to bring to the area. [We would also like to](#) acknowledge the support of NHH as a partner in this successful application and we look forward to working together to enhance health services to our region.”

- Dr. Mark Essak

QUICK FACTS

- The total number of family physicians in the District of Northumberland has increased by over 17% (9) between 2003 and 2009.
- It is expected that once all 200 teams are operational, they will provide access to primary care for more than three million Ontarians.
- Ontarians without a family health care provider can register with [Health Care Connect](#), a program that helps people find a family doctor or nurse practitioner in their community.
- It is expected that the new FHT's will be operational within one year.

LEARN MORE

[Find out more about Family Health Teams.](#)

[Find out more about Health Care Connect.](#)

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