



**EDWARDSBURGH  
CARDINAL**



**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



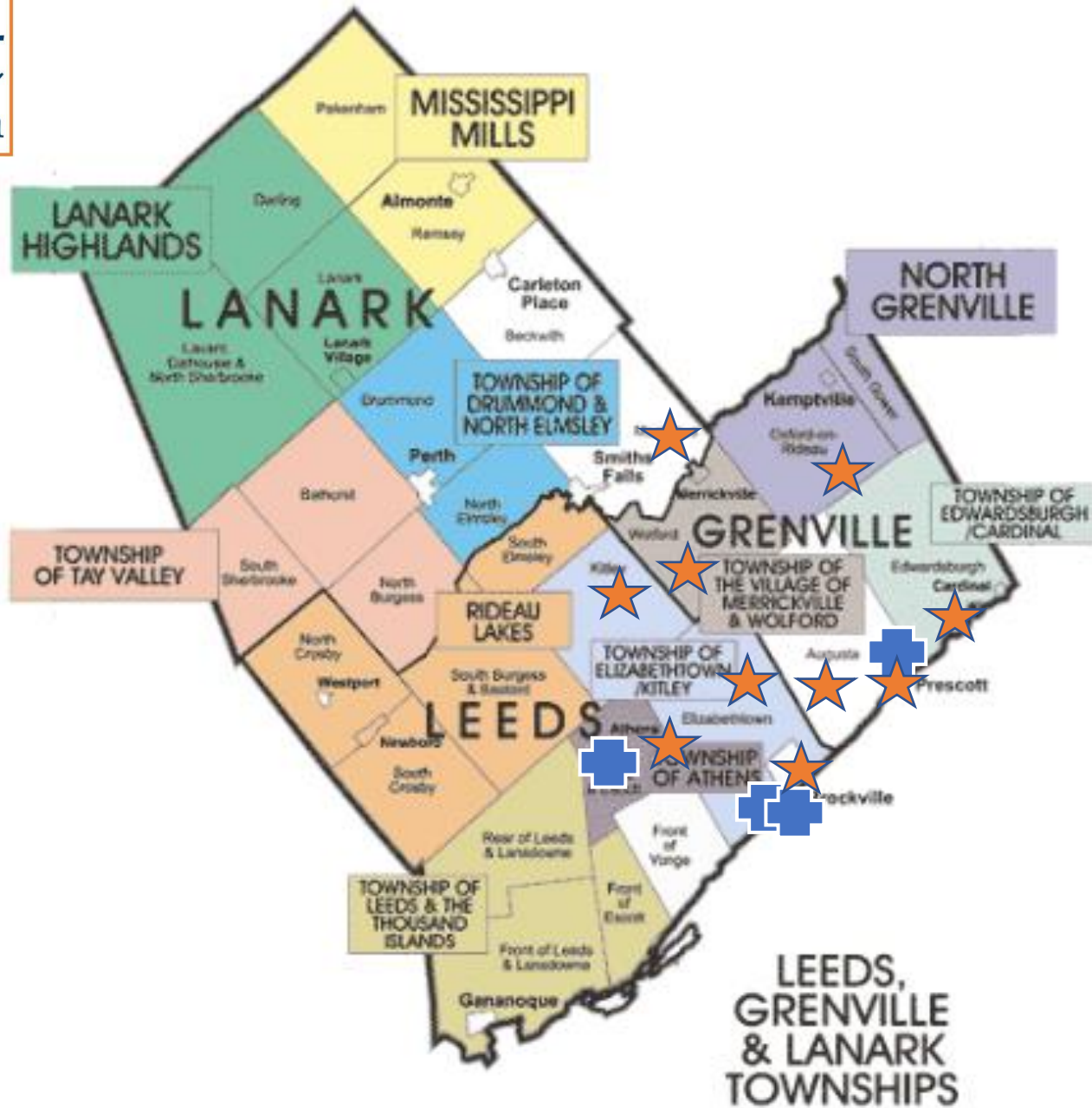
# Introduction

- 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!

# 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&region=ON&population=all&keyword=Edwardsburgh+Cardinal>.