



July 22, 2022

4.1

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Physician Shortages in Ontario

Ontario has one of the most revered health care systems in the world. The residents of Ontario have been fortunate to have access to medical professionals from all branches of the medical field.

Our Province continually monitors the needs of its citizens and strives to make progressive changes to continue to meet the needs of Ontarians. Evidence of this progressive action on the part of the government was the identification of the shortage of Personal Support Workers. Recognizing the vital role that they play in health care, the Province supported Ontario colleges in providing free tuition for students who agreed to study for and become Personal Support Workers. We applaud the Province for this progressive action.

Like many municipalities, we have noticed that as each year goes by, we begin to see fewer physicians. The shortage is becoming alarming as we hear daily that many people are without a physician and do not have access to a primary medical care giver. The shortage of physicians is reaching our hospital emergency rooms as many in our rural communities are forced to close periodically as there are no physicians to staff them.

Another issue which is exacerbating the physician shortage is the limited spaces available in Canadian Universities for medical school and in residency programs. Increases to the number of students who are accepted could go a long way to ensure that more students graduate and become contributing physicians in our communities.

A third issue that causes concern is the seemingly onerous process for foreign and international physicians to become accredited to practice in Ontario. We have had interactions with individuals who have come to our community and are accomplished physicians but are not able to practice in Ontario as they at times cannot afford the cost for accreditation and in other instances, the process is quite lengthy meaning that they must take other positions, outside of their field, thus wasting their talent.



TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula has seriously contemplated all of these issues and has taken steps to address the shortage experienced in our community. Council has monetarily supported a local Physician Recruitment Committee and has held money in reserves to assist with the hiring of a recruiter and to be used to assist new physicians requiring funds to set up an office and find housing.

We are reaching out to you to ask for your assistance in addressing the physician shortage. We would like to see subsidy opportunities for students who commit to becoming practicing physicians and would expect that the Province would put protective measures in place to ensure that students receiving funding commit to practicing in Ontario. We would support an expedited accreditation process for foreign physicians. We would encourage the increase of additional student spaces in medical school and residency programs.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula is not alone in its convictions to address the physician shortages. We welcome you to contact us directly to have conversations about how all levels of government can work together to end this shortage.

Yours very truly,

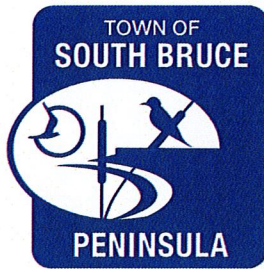
Mayor Janice Jackson

janice.jackson@southbrucepeninsula.com

519-534-1400 ext 200

Enclosure (1)

cc: Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Rick Byers, MPP, Bruce Grey Owen Sound rick.byers@pc.ola.org
Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca
Alex Ruff, MP, Bruce Grey Owen Sound alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca
All Municipalities in Ontario
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario feedback@cpsso.on.ca



Excerpt from Council Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2022

23. Notice of Motion – Mayor Jackson – Physician Subsidy

Mayor Jackson explained the meeting with the Physician Recruitment Committee and how a retired recruiter is willing to help the Committee but that we need to support medical students. The motion would be forwarded to the Minister, the Premier, the Prime Minister and all Ontario municipalities.

Discussion included the closing of hospital ERs, people without family doctors, the difficulty for professionals to obtain accreditation to work in our Province, having levels of accreditation to relieve pressure, community health models including nurse practitioners, ideas that the recruiter has and how she recruited 77 doctors.

R-266-2022

It was **Moved** by J. Jackson, **Seconded** by K. Durst and **Carried**

Whereas the Province of Ontario and particularly rural areas such as South Bruce Peninsula, are experiencing a severe shortage of physicians, leaving many people without access to medical care;

And whereas when the Province of Ontario realized the shortage of Personal Support Workers, they took progressive action to support Ontario colleges to provide free tuition for students who agreed to enter into this field of study and work;

And whereas it is recognized that the education costs for a physician can be a deterrent for students contemplating entering the medical field;

And whereas the Town of South Bruce Peninsula has taken steps to support the recruitment of physicians by earmarking money to hire a recruiter, by monetarily supporting a recruitment Committee and by providing money for new physicians to use to set up office space and for housing;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada recognizes that the shortage in health care workers is not unique to Personal Support Workers but is also relevant to physicians including specialists and general practitioners;

And that in order to support Ontario municipalities and their residents, the Provincial and Federal Governments take steps to provide support and subsidy to students entering

medical school with the intention of becoming practicing physicians in the Province of Ontario and particularly in underserviced rural and northern municipalities;

And that the Provincial and Federal Governments work with Canadian universities to increase the number of students accepted into medical school and residency programs;

And that the Province expedites the accreditation process for foreign medical practitioners ;

And further that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula supports whatever protective measures the Provincial and Federal Governments place on the subsidy given to ensure that the students receiving the funding become practicing physicians in the Province of Ontario.
