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## Connecting 7,626 More People to Primary Care in Clarington and East Durham Region

CLARINGTON — The Ontario government is taking the next steps to deliver its Primary Care Action Plan, which is on track to connect everyone in the province to a family doctor or primary care provider by 2029. As part of this plan to connect everyone in Ontario to a publicly funded family doctor or primary care team, the Ontario government is investing \$3,310,300 this year to connect up to 7,626 people to primary care in Clarington. "By investing in new and expanded primary care teams, our government is strengthening Ontario's healthcare system and improving access to con-

venient care. The East Durham Family Health Team will play a vital role in connecting 7,626 residents with a primary care physician," said Todd McCarthy, MPP for Durham. "Supporting primary care teams is more than a budget decision, it's the foundation of a healthier, more sustainable system. I also want to thank the 68 physicians in Clarington who have come together in this team-based model to ensure East Durham residents have timely access to the care they deserve." The East Durham Family Health Team will establish a process to support the attachment of these East Durham residents currently without a family physician to

one of the physicians in Clarington and will communicate this process to their local community. The East Durham Family Health Team was funded through the latest call for proposals under the Primary Care Action Plan, with all 124 teams receiving funding expected to connect another 500,000 patients to primary care across Ontario. Each team has established a plan to attach a high proportion of unattached people in their community, including those on the Health Care Connect waitlist. Through the 2026 Budget, the province is also increasing overall funding for the plan to a total of \$3.4 billion between 2025 and 2029.

"The 68 physicians who participated in this application wish to express their gratitude to the Ministry of Health for supporting us to create a new Family Health Team for East Durham. This will enable us to better support our community and ensure everyone has access to a family physician" said Dr. Anthony Stone, lead physician for the East Durham Family Health Team. The province has also exceeded its 2025-2026 attachment goal under the Primary Care Action Plan, which was to connect 300,000 patients to a primary care provider by March 31, 2026. As of January 1, 2026, the province has already

attached 330,000 people to care in 2025-2026, surpassing its goal by more than 30,000 with three months still to go. "Through our Primary Care Action Plan, we are connecting more people to care and have already exceeded our 2025-26 attachment target," said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By connecting more families to care in Clarington, our government is taking the next step toward connecting everyone in the province to primary care by 2029". "The creation of the East Durham Family Health Team marks an important milestone in improving access to primary care for residents

across Durham Region," said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence, and Security. "I want to commend my colleague MPP Todd McCarthy for his strong advocacy and hard work in helping make this initiative a reality. With a \$3 million investment from the Ontario government, this team will play a vital role in connecting more people to timely, team-based care close to home."