

March 21, 2025

Mayor of London and Councillors
c/o City Hall
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON N6A 4L9

**SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF PRIMARY CARE RECRUITMENT AND
RETENTION PROGRAM FUNDING CONTRIBUTION**

Dear Mayor Morgan and Members of Council,

On behalf of the London InterCommunity Health Centre, I would like to thank the City of London for its participation in the Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Program and express our strong support for the continuation of the City's financial contribution for another year.

We recognize that the Municipality is increasingly being called upon to address service gaps that fall under the jurisdiction of other levels of government. This is a frustrating and complex reality for our community—and for members of Council—as you work to meet your core responsibilities.

We understand that residents often don't differentiate between the responsibilities of various levels of government when they need help. As City Councillors, your strong connection to the community means you're often the first to hear about a broad range of concerns—and are regularly held accountable for matters that fall outside municipal jurisdiction. One of the most pressing of these is access to primary care, a challenge that continues to impact the health and wellbeing of tens of thousands of Londoners. By supporting the physician recruitment program, you have a meaningful opportunity to show how, under your leadership, City Council is actively contributing to a solution.

While the provincial government has recently announced a significant investment in primary care expansion, and Dr. Jane Philpott is developing a strategy to ensure every Ontarian is connected to primary care within the next five years, we continue to face challenges in the short term. Recruitment and retention of primary care providers remains difficult, and it is vital that we sustain the momentum created by the Primary Care Recruitment and Retention Program. London has a compelling story to tell—we must continue to promote our city as a top destination to practice family medicine. Many other municipalities have supported similar initiatives for years; it is essential that we do not fall behind.

The Mayor and City Council have been strong and effective advocates for London on key issues like housing, homelessness, and economic development. With new provincial funding for primary care becoming available, there is an opportunity to bring that same “Team London” leadership approach to expanding primary care access—working alongside health system partners to ensure London receives its fair share of provincial expansion dollars.

We understand that Council is entering a difficult budget planning process. We urge you to prioritize continued support for this program as part of your deliberations. Your investment is making a difference—and continued municipal leadership is critical to ensuring better health outcomes for our community.

Warm regards,



Scott Courtice

Executive Director, London InterCommunity Health Centre
Co-Chair, Middlesex-London Primary Care Network