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MEDIA STATEMENT

OHA Welcomes Ontario Government's Vision for Primary Care

Primary care reform led by Dr. Philpott can support in easing pressures on province's hospitals

January 27, 2025, Toronto, ON – "Today, Dr. Jane Philpott and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones announced commitments for Ontario's Primary Care Action Team as they work to connect every Ontarian with a primary care provider over the next four years. The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) welcomes today's announcement and the government's investment of $1.8 billion over four years towards expanding primary care teams, enhancing primary care standards, expanding community-based teaching clinics, and modernizing primary care access and delivery through technology.

Ontario's health system faces serious challenges in the years to come, including increased demand for care and more complex care needs with a rapidly growing and aging population. Over the next 20 years, the province's population will grow by 36 per cent, and 3.1 million people will be living with chronic illnesses by 2040. Getting everyone access to team-based primary care is crucial to addressing these challenges. Increasing primary care capacity and attachment will ease pressures on hospital emergency departments and services. Led by Dr. Philpott, these efforts will connect more people to vital health care services in their communities, ensuring people have access to interprofessional primary care teams and receive the most appropriate care close to home.

Investments to train more physicians in family medicine also grows the primary care workforce and helps prepare for future health care needs. Leveraging digital tools and innovation in primary care delivery supports in easing the administrative burden on health care workers and enables them to spend more time caring for patients, while also creating a more integrated and convenient system for Ontarians.

The OHA strongly supports a renewed vision for primary care. Ontario's hospitals will continue to work closely with the Government of Ontario and Dr. Philpott to expand primary care access across the province and connect people to the care they need."

- Anthony Dale, President and CEO, Ontario Hospital Association

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