



## Family Health Guarantee

You deserve health care when you need it, and to get that care close to home. After seven years of Doug Ford, 2.5 million Ontarians are without a family doctor and in two years, that number is going to almost double. It's harder than ever for people to get the care they need.

We're in this situation because of decades of Liberal and Conservative cuts and inaction. Both have failed on primary care and we can't trust that they will fix it.

Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP are on your side with the Family Health Guarantee - a plan to ensure every Ontarian has access to a family doctor.

***The Ontario NDP guarantees that every Ontarian will have a family doctor by connecting everyone to team-based care in four years.***

- **100 Days of Action:** We'll hit the ground running on day one by fast-tracking more family health teams, cutting wait times for specialist treatment, and allowing more flexibility for patients and doctors in how they provide and access care.
- **Put patients ahead of paperwork:** We will unlock more time for doctors to spend with patients by cutting the administrative burden and connecting doctors to a support team.
- **Grow the Workforce:** We will add 3,500 doctors to the primary care system over four years. We will increase residency spots in medical schools and clear barriers for the 13,000 internationally trained and ready-to-practice doctors in Ontario who are ready to enter the healthcare workforce.
- **Connecting Northerners to care:** We will launch a recruitment blitz to hire 350 doctors for Northern Ontario, including 200 family physicians and 150 specialists, and establish a Northern Command Centre to manage the health care worker capacity across the North.



## BACKGROUND

### Family Health Guarantee

Marit Stiles and the Ontario NDP will connect every Ontarian to a family doctor or nurse practitioner by recruiting more healthcare professionals into community-based primary care teams. A well-resourced, fully-staffed primary health care system can keep people in community and out of emergency departments.

- Drawing from the community health centre model, we will connect every Ontarian to an integrated primary care team, starting with the 2.5 million Ontarians who do not have a family doctor.
  - The Ontario government has already pledged \$1.8 billion over four years (2025–2029) to connect 2 million people to primary care teams. Scaling this to cover 2.5 million Ontarians would require an additional investment of \$2.25 billion to connect every Ontarian to an integrated primary care team, for a total investment of \$4.05 billion over four years.
  - Combined with modernizing systems like Health Care Connect to reduce wait times, the Ontario NDP’s additional investment in primary care would add 380 new primary care teams.
- In integrated teams, clinicians will work together to meet the needs of the community and tackle population health through a health-equity and community focused, culturally safe inter-professional team-based care. This will require a **targeted recruitment and retention initiative** to incentivize more doctors and nurse practitioners, as well as social workers, dietitians, counsellors, etc. into a community-based, integrated primary care team model.



**100 Days of Action:** we'll get straight to work with a plan to rapidly increase capacity in the family health system. We'll fast-track approvals for the backlog of integrated primary care teams piled up on the Health Ministers desk. We'll cut wait times with a centralized referral system for specialist treatment. And we'll scrap the practice of "negation," where your family doctor must pay when you receive care from a walk-in clinic, and you can face being "deregistered" and losing your family doctor.

- We will accelerate the approval of team-based primary care proposals from Community Health Centres, Nurse Practitioner Led Clinics, and Indigenous Primary Care Organizations that have submitted applications but still await review and funding.
- Ontario needs a centralized referral system that covers the entire province and its specialties. From pediatrics to adult care, wait times vary greatly for diagnostic imaging, surgical and specialist access. A centralized referral system would connect patients to care faster. The Ford government promised this in their *Your Health* plan but have not delivered.
- Stop the practice of "negation," where your family doctor has to pay when you receive care from a walk-in clinic, and patients can face "deregistration" and lose their doctor as a result.

**Patients Ahead of Paperwork:** Family doctors are spending up to 20 hours a week, the equivalent of more than two days of full-time work, on the paperwork burden — filling out lengthy forms, writing unnecessary sick notes for employers — time that eats away at the amount of time doctors can spend with patients. Taking paperwork off of doctors' desks will allow them to see an avg of 20 more patients a day.

- The Ontario Medical Association estimates that 40-50% of their time can be freed up when doctors are connected to team-based care. By reducing the amount of time doctors spend on administrative work, we can unlock thousands of hours for doctors to spend with patients and significantly increase the number of patients that each doctor can roster.
- We will streamline time-consuming administrative tasks and reduce the number of forms that are required to be filled out by a doctor.



- We will invest in a surge of additional healthcare staff so that doctors can spend their time being doctors.

**Grow the Workforce:** We will pay community health workers fairly to make sure the sector does not fall behind. We will increase residency seats and licensing opportunities for internationally trained doctors and healthcare workers already here in Ontario who are not yet able to practice.

- We will add 3,500 doctors to the primary care system by increasing residency spots in medical schools and incentivizing new graduates to stay in primary care by connecting them to an interdisciplinary team.
- We will clear barriers for the 13,000 internationally trained and ready-to-practice doctors to enter the healthcare workforce.
- We will ensure primary care teams are fully staffed with nurses, dieticians, social workers, and other healthcare workers to meet the community's needs.
- Make sure workers in the community health sector are paid fairly. Ontario needs to invest in a base budget increase of 5% or \$33.7 million annually for community-governed comprehensive primary health care organizations. Members have only seen a 6% increase over 27 years.

**Connecting Northerners to care:** Launch targeted recruitment to hire doctors in communities with the greatest need, starting in Northern Ontario.

- We will establish a Northern Command Centre to support recruitment, gather data on system capacity, and quickly identify emerging workforce issues.
- We will urgently fill more than 350 physician vacancies in northern communities, including more than 200 family doctors.
- We will increase funding to locum programs and opportunities for educational and targeted skills development in northern Ontario, building local knowledge and a skillset suited for the unique challenges of medicine in remote communities.