

## Expanded Primary Health Care Coming to Durham Region

*Interprofessional team-based care supports better access for patients*

**NEWS**

May 4, 2018

The Central East Local Health Integration Network (Central East LHIN) in partnership with the government of Ontario is providing more people with better access to high-quality health care closer to home, by supporting the expansion of the interprofessional team-based care currently being offered by Carea Community Health Centre in Durham Region.

This enhancement of the interprofessional team-based care services at Carea through a new \$500,000 investment will better connect people in the Central East LHIN's Durham sub-regions with a range of health care professionals, such as nurse practitioners, social workers and health educators to address a broad variety of healthcare needs, including mental health and chronic disease management.

Carea, in partnership with the Central East LHIN and its primary care physician leads, will also utilize this new investment to help build a primary health care community of practice of family doctors, nurse-practitioners and other primary health care providers who can collaborate on the design and development of a strong, organized and integrated primary health care system in Durham Region.

### QUOTES

“Our government is committed to ensuring everyone in Ontario has access to high-quality primary care, closer to home. Expanding access to interprofessional primary care teams for the residents in Durham West and across the region is an important and significant step toward achieving this goal.”

— Joe Dickson, MPP, Ajax Pickering

“Carea’s commitment to promoting health equity and better outcomes through access to high-quality and inclusive services for people in its communities is aligned with the LHIN’s approach to primary health care and its oversight of the local health system. This new investment in interprofessional team-based resources and the future development of a primary health care community of practice will support the ongoing transformation being led by the LHIN as we support people to live healthier at home.”

- Deborah Hammons, CEO, Central East LHIN

“Our region is one of the fastest growing and most diverse in Ontario. More members of our community are managing complex chronic health conditions and dealing with social or economic challenges than ever before. We look forward to working with the Central East LHIN and our primary health care partners in Durham Region in increasing access to interprofessional teams and creating a primary health care community of practice. Now is the time for new ways of thinking in care and service delivery to ensure that we build healthy communities.”

— Lee Kierstead, Chief Executive Officer, Carea CHC

### QUICK FACTS

- Ontario is creating new and expanded primary care programs and services in order to respond to the health and social service needs of communities across the province, including Franco-Ontarians, newcomers and seniors.
- In the 2017 Budget, the province made a commitment of \$15.5 million for 2017-18 and an additional \$27.8 million in 2018-19 to create and expand interprofessional primary care teams (Family Health Teams, Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics, Community Health Centres) focusing on areas with the greatest needs.
- Ontario has also committed \$329.2 million over five years to recruit and retain interprofessional primary care professionals.
- There are currently 294 interprofessional care teams across Ontario delivering care to more than four million people.
- The province is providing \$23 million per year over three years to improve care coordination for complex patients through an initiative called Health Links, that wraps a team of health care providers around patients with the most complex conditions so that they can provide co-ordinated, timely health care.
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### LEARN MORE

- [Health Links](#)
- [Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care](#)

### MEDIA CONTACT

Christine Dainty  
Manager, Communications  
Central East LHIN  
1-866-804-5446 ext. 5509  
[Christine.Dainty@lhins.on.ca](mailto:Christine.Dainty@lhins.on.ca)