

**Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**

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July 4, 2024

William C. Steele, Mayor  
City of Port Colborne  
66 Charlotte Street  
Port Colborne, ON L3K 3C8

Dear Mayor Steele,

Communities across Ontario have been facing critical health-care challenges, including long waitlists for primary care, shortages of doctors and other health care workers; and emergency room closures. These cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level.

In response, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) are working collaboratively to advocate for a better healthcare system for Ontario's residents and communities.

We have jointly developed the attached draft council resolution (Appendix A), urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and the rest of Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for more healthcare resources and support.

AMO is excited to welcome everyone to Ottawa for our annual conference from August 18-21, 2024. We are pleased to inform you that the OMA will be participating at this year's conference. Along with sponsoring the Rural Caucus Lunch on August 20, the OMA has reserved meeting room at the Fairmont Château Laurier for both August 20 and 21 to meet directly with municipal leaders. During these meetings, we would like to hear what you are seeing on the ground and discuss opportunities to work closer with you. We believe that collaboration between Ontario's doctors and all 444 municipalities is essential in addressing the health-care needs of your community.

To set up a meeting with the OMA, please reach out to [Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org](mailto:Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org) (senior advisor for government relations and advocacy) to book a 15-30 minute time slot at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to your positive response and to working together towards a healthier future for all Ontarians.

Yours sincerely,



Kimberly Moran  
CEO, Ontario Medical Association



Colin Best  
President  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

**Appendix A:**

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario expected to retire in the next five years; and (Northern Ontario only)

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, paramedicine, and other investments.

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of (the name of municipality) urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in (name of municipality) and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.