



## Media Release

### North Simcoe Family Health Team Funding

July 3, 2020 – The Councils for the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene and the Townships of Tay and Tiny recently approved one-time funding in the amount of \$10,000 per municipality in support of the North Simcoe Family Health Team.

The funding will support the North Simcoe Family Health Team in its partnership with the Virtual Family Physician Network to provide access for area residents who do not have a family physician or nurse practitioner.

The North Simcoe Family Health Team (NSFHT), a not-for-profit organization, is one of 200 Family Health Teams that were created as part of the Ontario government's plan to reduce wait times and improve access to quality health care for Ontario residents. Since opening its doors, the NSFHT has strived to enhance the care that is provided to patients and families within our community by offering a variety of programs and services that support healthy living and overall wellness.

The North Simcoe area is currently experiencing a decline in the availability of primary care physicians due to population growth, physician retirement and recruitment challenges. As a response, the NSFHT has partnered with a group of physicians to provide virtual care medical appointments to individuals without a primary care provider, which is estimated to be 5000-6000 residents. This model is specifically helpful in communities with limited health resources, particularly during this time of a pandemic.

As stated by Andrew Shantz, Executive Director, NSFHT, "The NSFHT appreciates the support of the municipalities to help bring comprehensive primary care to our region through virtual care. Individuals without a primary care provider face increased challenges accessing the health care services they require. This Virtual Care Clinic will allow individuals to access the right care, at the right time, at the right place. This support will allow the NSFHT to expand the pilot program from two to five days per week. Without the recognition of the importance of health care services close to home by the municipalities, this program would not be possible."

The North Simcoe Mayors commend the endeavours of the NSFHT to meet the challenges of limited health resources in the area and to develop solutions, such as the Virtual Care Clinic, to meet the needs of our community.

For more information about the North Simcoe Family Health Team, please visit <https://nsfht.ca/>

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For more information, please contact:

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