

Sault Ste. Marie Physician Recruitment C Retention Committee
City of Sault Ste. Marie

March 26, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

Subject: Update on GHC Contributions to Physician Recruitment

Group Health Centre (GHC) deeply values the outstanding accomplishments of the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee. Since its formation in 2002, our collaborative efforts have successfully recruited over 205 physicians to Sault Ste. Marie – a testament to the strength and impact of working together toward a common goal.

As discussed during the March 24, 2024, Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee meeting, GHC's Ministry of Health funding agreement prohibits the use of ministry funds for physician recruitment activities. To prevent a last-minute funding shortfall for the 2024 fiscal year, GHC agreed to continue its contribution for Fiscal 2024/25 by utilizing funds it receives from the Algoma District Medical Group (ADMG). These funds are meant to provide administrative support to our primary care providers.

Relying on physician-generated revenue from ADMG to fund community physician recruitment efforts is neither sustainable nor appropriate. Asking physicians to bear the financial burden of recruiting their future colleagues may negatively impact recruitment and retention efforts. Moreover, physician support funds are vital to projects aimed at reducing administrative burden and thereby addressing burnout amongst our existing group of family physicians who we desperately want to retain.

Given these considerations, and as discussed during our Physician Recruitment and Retention meetings, GHC is no longer able to provide direct financial contributions moving forward. However, we remain committed to supporting recruitment efforts through in-kind contributions or as a non-voting member, like the arrangement with the Algoma West Academy of Medicine.

Addressing the primary care crisis requires ongoing collaboration from all stakeholders. We look forward to continuing to work together to develop sustainable solutions and ensure that Sault Ste. Marie remains an attractive destination for healthcare professionals.

Thank you for your understanding and continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Lil Silvano, CEO
Group Health Centre



Dr. Jodie Stewart, CEO
Algoma District Medical Group

