



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAPLE FAMILY HEALTH TEAM ADDING 1500 NEW PATIENTS

The Maple Family Health Team (FHT) and the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) are pleased to announce that the Maple FHT is adding 1500 new patients to their team effective immediately.

"The Maple FHT is excited to be taking on 1500 new patients that are without a family physician", said Dr. Kathryn Lockington, Founding President of the Maple FHT. "But that's just the beginning," she adds " We fully expect to be taking on another 1500 new patients minimum beginning in January 2008, and possibly as many as 3000 at that time depending on whether we get one or two more new doctors in the practice by then!"

Marg Alden, Executive Director of the Maple FHT noted, "The City of Kingston and KEDCO have been an important part of this success story and we look forward to working together with them to further improve access to quality primary care in Kingston"

The immediate increase in the Maple FHT's capacity to care for new patients is the result of the multi-disciplinary approach and efficiency gains inherent to Family Health Teams. The creation of new clinical space for new doctors to the area will support much of the next round of additional capacity.

Dr. Rick Milner, current President of the Maple FHT, stated on behalf of the Maple FHT Board of Directors, "We are very pleased to play a role in improving patient access to primary health care and we look forward to the continued development of Teams as a way of providing more comprehensive services for our patients."

"We are pleased to partner with the Maple Family Health Team and are encouraged that they have been able to care for an additional number of patients equivalent to that of a full-time physicians practice", said Jeff Garrah, CEO of KEDCO. "We are working diligently to alleviate Kingston's shortage of family physicians and to fill the Maple FHT's remaining practice opportunities", said Jeff Gouveia, KEDCO's Family Physician Recruiter.

Marg Alden added a cautionary note. "It's important to note that the 1500 new patients spots being registered to our practice over the next month are already spoken for as a result of our advertised new patient application blitz a few months ago. We have started to call these patients in manageable groups to go through the paperwork and administrative process of joining our practice."

"As Dr. Lockington pointed out we will be taking on at least another 1500 new patients towards January 2008. In the meantime, people can either stop by the clinic at 1036 Princess Street (beside Pharma Plus) to pick up a new patient form or download this form from our website and return it to our office. Individuals looking for a family doctor should NOT call the clinic as our phone systems are not equipped to handle thousands of informational calls." notes Alden.

The website is: www.maplefamilyhealthteam.ca. People will be contacted by the Maple Family Health Team as soon as positions become available.

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