



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MINISTRY FEEDBACK ON UNDERSERVED DESIGNATION RECEIVED

Kingston, ON: The Kingston Economic Development Corporation reported today that a response has been received from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the request to designate Kingston as an underserved area for Family Physicians.

The Ministry denied Kingston's request on the basis that the City of Kingston does not meet their criteria nor provides evidence that there is a shortage of family physicians based on a population ratio. The letter states that "based on our analysis of recruitment activity in your community, there is evidence indicating that the City of Kingston has been successful in recruiting several [Family Physicians]."

Jeff Garrah, CEO of the Kingston Economic Development Corporation said, "It is disappointing but the process is important. A lot of hard work and research went into the preparation of the application – research that will help our community with future recruitment and retention initiatives."

In the November 2007 application submitted by the City of Kingston and KEDCO, Kingston requested designation to support its efforts to recruit 22 primary care physicians to meet the current needs of the community. The application findings suggest that census metropolitan Kingston (CMA) has the equivalent of 104 full time physicians and a family physician/patient ratio of 1:1,686. This ratio is above the provincial guideline of 1:1,380.

Garrah noted that a formal meeting has been requested with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to better understand the decision and review the findings. "There appears to be some challenges with how the equations are interpreted and we plan to further discuss opportunities to recognize Kingston as a community which has a dire need for more health care professionals," said Garrah.

The Kingston Economic Development Corporation oversees the Family Physician Recruitment and Retention portfolio for the City of Kingston.

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