

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Joint Physician Recruitment Update Provided by Hanover Partners**

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**HANOVER, ON** — Hanover and District Hospital (HDH), HDH Foundation, Hanover Medical Associates and the Town of Hanover continue to work collaboratively on physician recruitment to strengthen local healthcare access. Established in late 2022, the Joint Physician Recruitment Committee has been working collectively to increase the number of physicians working with Hanover Medical Associates and HDH. This strategic partnership confirms the commitment to recruit doctors to Hanover, ensuring continued access to high-quality care for the community.

“The Town of Hanover understands the importance of access to family physicians for our residents and the tremendous pressure on our emergency department physicians and health care staff at Hanover and District Hospital the last number of years”, stated Mayor Sue Paterson. “In 2025 the Town has financially committed \$90,000 to the HDH Foundation for physician recruitment and retention initiatives.’ Since 2009, the Town has provided financial support to HDH Foundation for the purposes of physician recruitment and retention. Over the past 12 years, the Town’s total contribution has been significant towards supporting the hospital and local health care initiatives.

“Hanover and District Hospital directly benefits from our joint physician recruitment and retention efforts”, noted Dana Howes, HDH President and CEO. “Our community is aware of the realities that our local hospital is experiencing with increased emergency room visits and patient acuity levels. There continues to be a need for more physicians and health care professionals to support the great work of our HDH team.”

“HDH Foundation has facilitated and led physician recruitment and retention for 20 years”, shared Mark Rogan, HDH Foundation chairperson. “During this time, our initiatives have been key to attracting and confirming 18 physicians. We are appreciative of the Town’s support and the collaborative working relationship with all of our partners for the shared vision to increase the number of doctors in Hanover to support both family physician care and patient care at the hospital.”

Examples of successful initiatives include the Rural Residency Program and Discovery Week. The Rural Residency Program, a partnership with Western University’s Schulich School of Medicine, exposes residents to the practice of rural medicine and

comprehensive care where family physicians typically work in multiple settings such as in-patient, emergency department, obstetrics, surgical assisting and palliative care. Discovery Week brings first year medical students to our community to expose them to rural health care. As well, in 2025, Hanover will host the Discovery Healthcare Camp which is a one-week medical science camp for high school students. It is designed to mentor and inspire an interest in pursuing a career in healthcare.

In addition, approximately 10 years ago, HDH Foundation recognized that a key component of the continued success of the important residency program was ensuring reliable housing. HDH Foundation purchased a house to further support the residency program by providing residents with a housing option so that they can experience rural living in Hanover.

As well, a partnership with Queen's University was recently confirmed that will see third year medical students placed at Hanover and District Hospital for their clerkship year. It is during this year that the students transition from classroom-based learning to hands on clinical training in hospitals and clinics. Annually, this will result in 6 prospective future doctors gaining rural medical work experience in Hanover.

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