

Office of the Essex County Medical Society - President

Monday September 25, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear County of Essex,

By way of background, the Essex County Medical Society (ECMS) represents well over 450 physicians in the region, and the ECMS has been a part of the Windsor and Essex County community since 1914, with both Family Physicians and Specialists forming the membership and Executive Committee. The ECMS has a mandate to serve our community.

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (2022), 32,118 people in Windsor Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14.ⁱThe need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019.ⁱⁱ

Among people not currently attached to a Primary Care Provider in our region, 45% live in neighbourhoods with the lowest average incomes. ⁱⁱⁱPeople living with low incomes are more likely to experience health risks in their daily life such as having less access to nutritious food. They are also more likely to live with multiple chronic conditions which can lead to further health problems, yet they are less likely to receive quality healthcare. ^{iv}Delayed access to healthcare services has life-long consequences and increases costs to the healthcare system.

The ECMS and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joseph Zakaria, BHSc, MD, CCFP
ECMS President 2022-2023

ⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

ⁱⁱ Mavrincac, J. (2019, October 16). *Regional Physician Recruitment* [PowerPoint slides]. <https://coe-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12817>

ⁱⁱⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

^{iv} Health Quality Ontario (2016). *Income and Health: Opportunities to achieve health equity in Ontario*. <http://www.hqontario.ca/portals/0/documents/system-performance/health-equity-report-en.pdf>



GREATER ESSEX
Elementary Teachers'
Federation of Ontario

Mario Spagnuolo,
Local President
3255 Odessa Drive
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 2M1
Phone: 519-735-7158 ext. 24
Fax: 519-735-8817
www.greaterteachers.com

August 1, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear Essex County Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (2022), 32,118 people in Windsor-Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14.ⁱ The need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019.ⁱⁱ

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Greater Essex ETFO and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely

Mario Spagnuolo,
Local President
Greater Essex ETFO

ⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

ⁱⁱ Mavrinc, J. (2019, October 16). *Regional Physician Recruitment* [PowerPoint slides]. <https://coe-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12817>

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HÔTEL - DIEU GRACE HEALTHCARE

ESTD 1888

July 10, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear Windsor Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (2022), 32,118 people in Windsor-Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14.ⁱ The need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019.ⁱⁱ

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Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Biagio (Bill) Marra
President & CEO
bill.marra@hdgh.org

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ⁱⁱ Mavrinac, J. (2019, October 16). *Regional Physician Recruitment* [PowerPoint slides]. <https://coe-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12817>

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CHANGING LIVES TOGETHER



Date: July 17, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear Essex County Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (2022), 32,118 people in Windsor-Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14.¹ The need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019.²⁻

Among people not currently attached to a Primary Care Provider in our region, 45% live in neighbourhoods with the lowest average incomes.³ People living with low incomes are more likely to experience health risks in their daily life such as having less access to nutritious food. They are also more likely to live with multiple chronic conditions which can lead to further health problems, yet they are less likely to receive quality healthcare.⁴ Delayed access to healthcare services has life-long consequences and increases costs to the healthcare system.

Leamington District Chamber of Commerce and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Wendy Parsons

Wendy Parsons
General Manager
Leamington District Chamber of Commerce
wendyp@leamingtonchamber.com/www.leamingtonchamber.com

¹ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

² Mavrinac, J. (2019, October 16). *Regional Physician Recruitment* [PowerPoint slides]. <https://coe-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12817>

³ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

⁴ Health Quality Ontario (2016). *Income and Health: Opportunities to achieve health equity in Ontario*. <http://www.hqontario.ca/portals/0/documents/system-performance/health-equity-report-en.pdf>

Date July 11, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear Essex County Council,

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (2022), 32,118 people in Windsor-Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14.ⁱ The need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019.ⁱⁱ

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Windsor Family Health Team and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Margo Reilly, Executive Director

Windsor Family Health Team

mreilly@windsorfht.ca

ⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

ⁱⁱ Mavrincac, J. (2019, October 16). *Regional Physician Recruitment* [PowerPoint slides]. <https://coe-pub.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=12817>

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Ontario Provincial Police
Essex County Detachment



Police provinciale de l'Ontario
Detachement du Comte d'Essex

1219 Hicks Rd.
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NSM 2Y2

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File Reference/

July 17, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear County of Essex,

Please accept this letter of support for the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group's letter regarding increased access to Primary Care Providers in the Windsor Essex region. According to the Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams {2022}, 32,118 people in Windsor-Essex County are not attached to a Primary Care Provider. This includes 6,998 children between the ages of 0-14. ⁱ The need for physician recruitment is growing as Windsor-Essex County has an aging Physician population. More than 1 in 5 physicians in Windsor-Essex County were over the age of 65 and approaching retirement in 2019. ⁱⁱ

Among people not currently attached to a Primary Care Provider in our region, 45% live in neighborhoods with the lowest average incomes. ⁱⁱⁱ People living with low incomes are more likely to experience health risks in their daily life such as having less access to nutritious food. They are also more likely to live with multiple chronic conditions which can lead to further health problems, yet they are less likely to receive quality healthcare. ^{iv} Delayed access to healthcare services has life-long consequences and increases costs to the healthcare system.

Essex County O.P.P. and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,

Jamie Smith, Staff Sergeant
Detachment Manager, Tecumseh, and Lakeshore
Essex County OPP

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Office of the President

July 10, 2023

Essex County Council
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Dear Warden and Council:

It is my understanding that a letter from the Advocacy Working Group of the region's ProsperUs organization is on your agenda, or will be soon. That letter, regarding the need to address the alarming shortage of primary care providers in this area, has also been shared with me and other officials at the College. I am writing to you to endorse the argument made by ProsperUs: namely, that this lack of general practitioners is something of a crisis and that it warrants a comprehensive effort - including the involvement of municipal governments - to retain the family physicians that we currently have and to recruit a substantial number of new ones to practice in our area.

Over its half-century of existence, St. Clair has certainly proved capable of supplying the region's health-care system with most of the support personnel that it requires. We've staffed local hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices with our graduates from Nursing, Practical Nursing, Personal Support Worker, Dental Hygiene and Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Laboratory Science and Technician, Respiratory Therapy, Diagnostic Medical and Cardiac Sonography, Cardiovascular Technology, Paramedic, Advanced Medical Esthetics Practitioner, and Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant. What we have not been able to do, of course, is to provide physicians to the area.

Even the launch of the University of Windsor-based Schulich Medical School in 2012 hasn't been able to fully furnish all of the family doctors needed by our citizens. About 100 of its graduates over the years have remained in Windsor-Essex - and that's wonderful - but it still hasn't been sufficient to provide primary care service to all who need it.

The situation, also, is being exacerbated by a trend that St. Clair has also observed (and been attempting to address) in the skilled trades: namely, that a great many current family physicians are now of retirement age and will be departing from their practices within the next few years. Not being able to readily find a plumber or electrician when you need one is inconvenient, but not being able to obtain access to a doctor is potentially life-threatening.


Letter of Support – ProsperUs Advocacy

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It's been said – accurately, I think – that the quality of a society is best judged by how well (or poorly) its weakest members are cared for: children, the elderly, and the financially disadvantaged. The ProsperUs study reveals that it is the well-being of precisely those demographic groups that are most at-risk due to this shortage of primary care providers. In this instance, our society, our community, is failing its weakest members.

I'm confident that this current situation can be resolved. A renewal of funding of recruitment programs and the enhancement of strategies to address this physician shortage are essential. And I think the many recommendations of the ProsperUs Advocacy Working Group should be adopted and enacted by all of the governments, organizations and agencies which might have a role to play in rectifying this crisis. I and St. Clair College are certainly on-board to provide any assistance that we can.

Sincerely,



Patti France, M.Ad.Ed., LLD.h.c.
President



July 17, 2023

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

Dear Essex County Council,

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The Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society (WECAS) and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

WECAS' recommendation stands in strong alignment to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' (MCCSS) transformation of the Child Welfare System ([Child welfare redesign | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/gov/topics/child-welfare-redesign)), and to our current Strategic and Operational Plans ([WECAS Strategic & Operational Plan](#)). In particular, WECAS is embracing our role in supporting community-inspired and community-led strategies, directly and through collaborative partnerships, that 'strengthen families and communities through prevention and early intervention', and help enhance their Wellbeing [achieved when children, youth and families are supported in their communities to thrive while meeting key developmental and educational milestones].

Sincerely,

Hugo Vega

Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion / ProsperUS Leadership Council Member Representative
Windsor-Essex Children's Aid Society
hvega@wecas.on.ca

ⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

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July 12, 2023

Dear Essex County Council,

RE: ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

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Windsor Essex Community Health Center (weCHC) and ProsperUs recommend that municipalities in our region collaborate with healthcare leaders in Windsor-Essex County to establish a regional strategy for physician recruitment and retention to meet the needs of residents. Through continued collaboration, data-sharing, and advocacy, we believe municipalities in Windsor-Essex County can make a significant impact on this pressing issue.

Sincerely,



Rita Taillefer

Executive Director

Windsor Essex Community Health Centre

1-519-890-3691

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July 12, 2023

Dear Members of Council, Corporation of the County of Essex:

ProsperUs Advocacy for Increased Access to Primary Care

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Sincerely,



Dr. Kenneth Blanchette, CEO
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
kblanchette@wechu.org



Dr. Mehdi Aloosh, Medical Officer of Health
Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
maloosh@wechu.org

ⁱ INSPIRE-PHC, Primary Care Data Working Group. (2023) *Primary Care Data Reports for Ontario Health Teams (OHTs)*. <https://www.ontariohealthprofiles.ca/>

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Monday, July 10, 2023

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