

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Trent Hills Family Health Team moves to an expanded model of care**

**TRENT HILLS, March 28, 2022** — The Trent Hills Family Health Team will be offering an expanded model of primary care starting April 1.

The Trent Hills Family Health Team (THFHT) is very pleased to announce the creation of Nurse Practitioner (NP) enrolled practices. Nurse Practitioners have been working with the Trent Hills Family Health Team since 2006. On April 1<sup>st</sup> they will begin enrollment of their own patient practices.

“We are extremely fortunate to have four very experienced Nurse Practitioners already working with our team and many patients in our community have received care from them at some point in the last 16 years” says Executive Director Delayne Donald.

Dr. Bob Henderson is retiring on March 31<sup>st</sup> bringing to close an illustrious career after **forty-seven** years of practice in Trent Hills. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Kent Tisher is moving into full-time palliative care and closing his primary care practice.

“Like many communities in Ontario we are seeing physician retirements and practice changes,” says Medical Director Dr. Jamie Read. “We continue to try to attract physicians, but we are also very pleased to offer enrollment with Nurse Practitioners to patients who would otherwise not have a primary care provider and would have difficulty accessing health care.”

A Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse with university postgraduate and graduate education and is an advanced practice health care professional regulated by the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Nurse Practitioners provide a full range of comprehensive health care to individuals, families and communities. They assess, diagnose, treat and monitor a wide range of health issues and can prescribe medications, order diagnostic tests and refer to specialists.

“I commend Sam and the family health team nurse practitioners in our community for their leadership and commitment to the best possible patient centered care,” said David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South. “The creation of a Nurse Practitioner enrolled practice will allow more of our residents to access quality healthcare right here in our community.”

On April 1<sup>st</sup> NP Stasia Bennett, NP Samantha Dalby, NP Laurie Deviney and NP Carole Robichaud will begin reviewing applications for enrollment. Applications from unattached or recently detached patients with a primary residence in the THFHT geographical catchment area will be prioritized.

“All indicators suggest unprecedented increases in housing development and community growth in the Trent Hills area. The truth is that we need to fully leverage the skill sets and care of all health care professionals and link with service partners in the Ontario Health Team Northumberland region” says NP Samantha Dalby. “It really is a case of all-hands-on-deck. But there’s a lot of opportunity in that and we are already seeing some very innovative and exciting ways to help people access health care”.

If enrolled with a Nurse Practitioner, she or he becomes the patient’s Most Responsible Provider (MRP). The enrollment process will take several months and spaces in Nurse Practitioner practices are limited.

Those wishing to apply should visit [thfht.com](http://thfht.com) or email [admin2@thfht.com](mailto:admin2@thfht.com) to request an application form. Those without internet or computer access can call 705-653-1801 to ask for an application to be sent to them in the mail.

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The Trent Hills Family Health Team (THFHT) has been funded by the Ministry of Health since 2005 in the first wave of family health teams in Ontario. THFHT has partnered with Ontario Health Team-Northumberland since 2019 when Ontario Health teams were created by the Ministry of Health.

THFHT currently provides care to 13,000 patients at five sites across the region. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the team will consist of 8 physicians, 4 nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered practical nurses, social service workers and a team of administrative professionals.

To read more about Nurse Practitioners please visit the Nurse Practitioners Association of Ontario (NPAO) at [npao.org](http://npao.org).

To read more about the Trent Hills Family Health Team please visit [thfht.com](http://thfht.com).

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