

Discussion: Increasing Access to Primary Care through Nurse Practitioner-led Clinics




In a province as progressive as Ontario, the fact remains that in 2010, 7.1 per cent of Ontarians still did not have a nurse practitioner, family physician or other primary care provider. Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in community, long-term care and hospital settings have demonstrated the knowledge, skills and competencies to supplement and complement other roles^{1,2} and improve access to vital health services. However, many NPs in Ontario are not being fully utilized and are not able to practice to their full scope.³





Nurse Practitioner-led clinics in Ontario, such as the Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinic, have resulted in improved access to primary care and quality of life for hundreds of patients and their families.^{4,5} Following the success of the Sudbury clinic after its opening in 2007, the government committed to twenty-five additional NP-led clinics across the province. These have been announced in three successive waves and some have already opened (see Appendix for the current status of all 26 NP-led clinics). It is crucial that the newly-announced NP-led clinics be up and running as soon as possible, and definitely by the end of 2011.

Dozens of other communities are just waiting for the green light to move forward with their own NP-led clinics. Opening an additional 50 nurse practitioner-led clinics by 2015 is an essential, practical and cost-effective way to give thousands of Ontarians needed access to primary care.

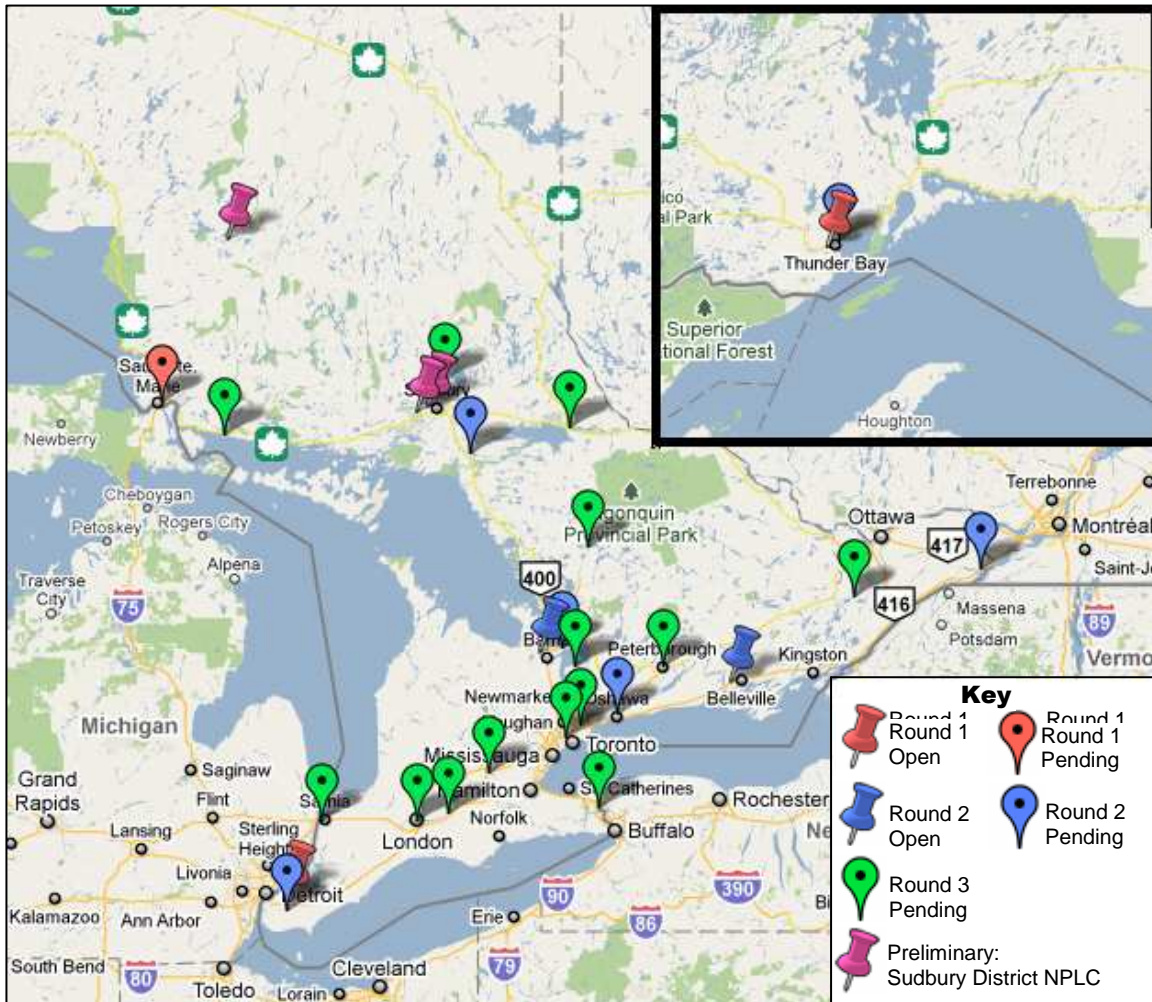
QUESTION: Can we count on your Party's support to establish 50 additional nurse practitioner-led clinics by 2015 (in addition to the 26 we will already have by the end of 2011), in order to enhance access to primary care in all communities?

APPENDIX: Status of 26 Additional Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics

NPLC Name	Location	LHIN	Wave	Approval Date	Opening Date
Pilot Project: Sudbury					
Sudbury District Nurse Practitioner Clinic (3 locations)	Sudbury, Lively and Chapleau	North East	 Prelim	2007	Summer, 2007
ROUND 1 – Approval February 18, 2009					
Belle River VON NPLC	Belle River	Erie St. Clair	 Wave 1	Feb. 18, 2009	OPENED: April 2010
Lakehead NPLC	Thunder Bay	North West			OPENED: November 2010
Algoma NPLC	Sault Ste. Marie	North East			 PENDING: Spring 2011

ROUND 2 – Approval November 27, 2009					
Belleville NPLC	Belleville	South East	 Wave 2 	Nov. 27, 2009	OPENED: August 2010
Georgian College NPLC	Barrie	North Simcoe Muskoka			OPENING: February 2011
Glengarry NPLC	Lancaster	Champlain			OPENING: February 2011
Essex NPLC	Essex	Erie St. Clair			OPENING: March 2011
Canadian Mental Health Association – Durham Region NPLC	Oshawa	Central East			PENDING: Winter 2011
Anishnawbe Mushkiki – Thunder Bay Aboriginal Community Health Centre	Thunder Bay	North West			PENDING: Summer 2011
French River NPLC	Alban	North East			PENDING: Summer 2011
Huronian NPLC	Oro Station	North Simcoe Muskoka			PENDING: Summer 2011
ROUND 3 – Approval August 23, 2010					
Capreol NPLC	Capreol	North East	 Wave 3	Aug. 23, 2010	PENDING: Summer 2011
Emery-Keelestone NPLC	Toronto	Central			PENDING: Summer 2011
Georgina NPLC	Sutton	Central			PENDING: Spring 2011
Health Zone NPLC	London	South West			PENDING: Winter 2011
HF Connecting Health (Scarborough)	Toronto	Central			PENDING: Fall 2011
Ingersoll NPLC	Ingersoll	South West	 Wave 3	Aug. 23, 2010	PENDING: Summer 2011
Niagara NPLC	Niagara Falls	HNHB			PENDING: Fall 2011
North Bay NPLC	North Bay	North East			PENDING: Summer 2011
North Channel NPLC	Thessalon	North East			PENDING: Fall 2011
North Muskoka NPLC	Huntsville	North Simcoe Muskoka			PENDING: Fall 2011
Smiths Falls NPLC	Smiths Falls	South East			PENDING: Fall 2011
Twin Bridges NPLC	Sarnia	Erie St. Clair			PENDING: Fall 2011
VON “360 Degrees”	Peterborough	Central			PENDING:

NPLC		East			Summer 2011
Waterloo Region NPLC	Kitchener/ Cambridge	Waterloo Wellington			PENDING: Fall 2011



REFERENCES

- ¹ Cowan, M., Shapiro, M., Hays, R., Afifi, A., Vazirani, S., Ward, C., et. al. (2006). The effect of a multidisciplinary hospitalist/physician and advanced practice nurse collaboration on hospital costs. *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 36(2), 79-85.
- ² DiCenso, A., & Matthews, S., (2005). *Report on the Integration of Primary health care Nurse Practitioners in the province of Ontario: Executive Summary (revised)*. Hamilton: IBM & McMaster University.
- ³ DiCenso, A., & Matthews, S., (2005). *Report on the Integration of Primary health care Nurse Practitioners in the province of Ontario: Executive Summary (revised)*. Hamilton: IBM & McMaster University, 19.
- ⁴ Gilmour, H. & Park, J. (2003). Dependency, chronic conditions and pain in seniors. *Supplement to Health Reports*, Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 16, 21-31.
- ⁵ Walker, J. (2009). *Canadians very comfortable with expanded role for nurse practitioners*. Harris Decima Survey: Ottawa. Retrieved January 25, 2011 from: http://rorrhc-ohhrrn.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14%3Acanadians-very-comfortable-with-expanded-role-for-nurse-practitioners&catid=10&Itemid=8&lang=en