



Randy Pettapiece, MPP
Perth-Wellington

Perth-Wellington Constituency Office
Stratford, Ontario

January 24, 2018

The Hon. Eric Hoskins, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor St
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

Open Letter to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Minister:

For too long, too many of my constituents been without a trusted family doctor. Since I was first elected, I have received hundreds of phone calls, emails and letters from those without a family physician. My staff and I do everything we can to help them, and we encourage them to register for Health Care Connect in order to be matched with a doctor.

As you know, I have raised this issue many times in the Ontario legislature, and I have written frequent letters. I have also met with local doctors, health care professionals and recruiters, as well as our municipal leaders. Fortunately we have seen some improvement, with new doctors opening their practices. Fewer calls came into my constituency office.

This is changing, and the numbers are again on the rise. People are doing everything they can to search for a doctor, but many are unsuccessful. Even among those who do have a doctor, many of those doctors will soon be retiring, leaving my constituents with no effective option. Many more of them are registered with doctors at a great distance from home, meaning long travel distances in treacherous winter conditions. Understandably, they are fearful of deregistering with those doctors without any meaningful assurance they will find a new one closer to home. Others have tried to register with doctors in other communities, but were turned down because they are outside the area.

This situation is not sustainable; it demands your immediate attention. We need new family physicians in Perth-Wellington and we need leadership from your government. What will you do to assist my constituents who are without a family doctor, some for over a year? As Minister of Health, it is your job to improve this situation.

We look forward to your response.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Pettapiece". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Pettapiece, MPP
Perth-Wellington

c: Kelly Gillis, Interim Co-CEO, South West LHIN
Donna Ladouceur, Interim Co-CEO, South West LHIN
Bruce Lauckner, CEO, Waterloo Wellington LHIN