

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FAMILY DOCTORS

The McGuinty government is investing \$10 million to increase the supply of family physicians in Ontario. The investment includes an initial \$5 million to increase the number of family residency positions at Ontario's five medical schools by 70 per cent. This expansion will mean 337 more family doctors will be ready for practice in Ontario by 2008, meaning that hundreds of thousands more patients will have access to a family physician.

A further \$5 million will be shared by Queen's University's School of Medicine and University of Western Ontario's Schulich School of Medicine for the construction of new medical clinics to help accommodate the increase in Family Residency positions.

Medical School	Former 1 st Year Training Positions (2003)	Total 1 st Year Positions by 2006	Total New 1 st Year Training Positions (2004-2006)	Teaching & Program Funding (2005)
McMaster University's Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine	41	63	22	\$880,000
University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine	43	69	26	\$770,000
Queen's University's School of Medicine	26	45	19	\$440,000
University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine	63	112	49	\$1,705,000
University of Western Ontario's Schulich School of Medicine	28	53	25	\$1,210,000
TOTAL	201	342	141	\$5,005,000

Family Medicine

Providing Ontarians with better access to physicians is at the heart of this government's healthcare strategy.

Family medicine residency is two years of specialized postgraduate training that graduating medical students must complete in order to become a family doctor. During those two years of training, family medicine residents see patients with a wide variety of health problems and receive training on elements of medical practice not usually found with hospital-based specialties. Areas such as preventative medicine, co-ordination of a variety of health care services for complex problems, providing primary care in the community, a humanistic approach to medical care, and the social and economic realities of family practice are all part of the training they receive.

Family doctors are a main point of contact for patients inquiring about chronic disease management, health promotion and disease prevention needs, such as health education and counseling. By increasing the number of family medicine training positions in the postgraduate system, the McGuinty government is helping to ensure that Ontarians stay healthy.