

**SAVE YOUR SKIN FOUNDATION AND ALL.CAN CANADA APPLAUD THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT  
FOR \$1.8 BILLION TO ADDRESS NEED FOR PRIMARY CARE TEAMS AND FAMILY DOCTORS**

**January 29, 2025 – TORONTO, ON:** [Save Your Skin Foundation](#) and [All.Can Canada](#) commend the Ontario government announcement on January 27<sup>th</sup> of an investment of \$1.8 billion to connect two million more people in Ontario to a publicly funded family doctor or primary health care team over the next four years. This will ensure that everyone in the province has access to primary care.

This transformational project led by Dr. Jane Philpott's Ontario Primary Care Team will rely on best-in-class models for its work to build a comprehensive, convenient and, very importantly, a connected primary health care system in the province. Wait times will be reduced which is so important to cancer patients, where every day of delays in diagnosis and treatment can lead to a far poorer outcome than otherwise. Earlier cancer diagnosis saves lives and money but, sadly, most people in Canada are still being diagnosed at late stages. Having access to a high performing primary care team is a key enabler for earlier diagnosis and treatment as, other than emergency rooms, primary care is the entry point into more specialized parts of healthcare in Canada.

"On behalf of cancer patients, we are so grateful and relieved to receive this news," said Kathleen Barnard, President Save your Skin Foundation, a national patient led cancer group focussing on melanoma and other skin-related cancers. "Access to team-based primary care for everyone in Ontario and the reduction of wait times are so important to cancer patients and people who are dealing with symptoms that may be cancer, where every day of delays in diagnosis and treatment can lead to a far poorer outcome." She added, "The commitment for best-in-class standards and transparency through regular public updates are also important components of this announcement."

The cancer community commits to working in collaboration with the Ontario government to achieve these breakthrough plans.

For further information:

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