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Ministry Funding Supports Expansion of Primary Care Through Transition of Sioux Narrows Medical Clinic to Sunset Country Family Health Team

May 20, 2026, Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, ON — The Sunset Country Family Health Team (SCFHT), alongside regional healthcare partners and the Province of Ontario, is celebrating a significant step forward in strengthening access to primary care in the municipality of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls through the transition of the Sioux Narrows Medical Clinic into the SCFHT and the continued rollout of the region’s Rural Generalist Care (RGC) model.

Today, the Honorable Greg Rickford, Kenora-Rainy River Member of Provincial Parliament and Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, along with representatives from SCFHT, All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team (ANHP OHT), community leadership, and local health care organizations, gathered at the Sioux Narrows Medical Clinic to formally recognize \$476,400 in Ministry of Health funding, part of the \$2.1 billion announced in June 2025 to support the expansion and stabilization of primary care services in the province.

In Ontario, Interprofessional Primary Care Team (IPCT) funding is a provincial government initiative aimed at connecting every resident to a primary care provider by 2029. The program enables organizations to hire multidisciplinary professionals like nurse practitioners, social workers and dietitians, to work alongside family doctors. Provincial allocations in the Kenora area enabling this work include \$29 million to support the RGC physician compensation model, as well as a \$1.9 million provincial funding injection for Kenora Chiefs Advisory Ogimaawabiiitong, in order to attach 1,470 patients to primary care.

The transition of the clinic into the SCFHT is another important milestone in the region’s efforts to build a connected, sustainable, team-based model of care for patients in Kenora and the surrounding area. Now, with this funding, SCFHT supports care close to home for the municipality of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

“This project represents the kind of collaboration that communities in our region need, to ensure people can continue to access high-quality primary care, close to where they live,” said Colleen Neil, Executive Director of the Sunset Country Family Health Team. “We are grateful for the support of the Ministry of Health and our regional partners as we work

together to stabilize and strengthen care for patients in the municipality of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. Bringing the Sioux Narrows Medical Clinic into the SCFHT allows us to better integrate and optimize services, support healthcare providers, and continue building a sustainable model of care for our region.”

The transition also reflects the broader work underway through the ANHP OHT and regional partners to transform primary care delivery through the implementation of the RGC model.

“The work happening here is about creating a stronger, more connected health system for communities across the region,” said Gale Black, Mayor of the Municipality of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. “This investment and the continued growth of local partnerships demonstrate what can happen when communities, providers, and government work together to improve access to care locally.”

The Sioux Narrows Medical Clinic will continue operating as part of the SCFHT, supporting residents through a model of care connected to the regional primary care network.

Today’s announcement underscores the continued commitment of regional partners, municipalities, Indigenous communities and organizations, clinicians, and the Province of Ontario to strengthening equitable access to primary care, and ensuring sustainable health services for communities across Northwestern Ontario.

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