

Media Release
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For Immediate Release

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT A GREAT SUCCESS

The Barrie and Area Physician Recruitment Task Force (BAPR) continues its success in recruiting doctors to the Barrie area.

In the last year BAPR has recruited 10 Family physicians to the Barrie Area as well as 21 Specialists in disciplines such as Cardiology, Medical Oncology, Internal Medicine and many more. BAPR has also facilitated 51 site visits to prospective physicians showcasing what it would be like to live and practice in our community.

In addition to the lifestyle advantages this region has to offer and having Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) - a state-of-the-art health facility, the Family Medicine Teaching Unit (FMTU) is also a huge attraction for physicians in their last two years of residency who may be considering the move to the Barrie Area. The FMTU is an official teaching site of the University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Since the program began in 2009, the FMTU has graduated 19 Family Physicians; Barrie Area Physician Recruitment has successfully retained 13 in the Barrie Area. These physicians are practicing in a variety of settings within the Community.

One of those physicians is Dr. Devon Turner, a 2013 FMTU graduate. He says being a resident at the FMTU was nothing short of a golden opportunity.

"I doubt there is a hospital site with such a state-of-the-art teaching facility where residents are able to assume the responsibility of an independent family physician while in an environment supervised by practicing family physicians," says Dr. Turner.

And once he was contemplating his options he turned to BAPR.

"The Barrie and Area Physician Recruitment Task Force conducted job fairs for family physicians which was extremely helpful in knowing your options and the positions that were available," says Dr. Turner. "Your options were 'right there in front of you. They helped me bridge from being a resident to a physician in the Barrie area.

It's no secret that entire region is suffering from a shortage of family physicians," says Dr. Stuart Murdoch, Program Director, FMTU and Co-Chair of BAPR. "In the Barrie area alone, it is estimated that 50,000 people don't have a local family doctor. So for RVH to become a teaching hospital means a merging of education and health care that has a significant, positive impact on our community. In essence, this innovative program allows us to 'grow our own doctors'."

And yet there is still much work to be done. Working in partnership with RVH, the City of Barrie, the Town of Innisfil, the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater, the Task Force will continue to play their role in bringing health care closer to home.

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