



# Town of The Blue Mountains

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**OFFICE OF:** Mayor Alar Soever

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September 3, 2020

The Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
College Park 5<sup>th</sup> Flr, 777 Bay St  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3  
Email: [christine.elliott@ontario.ca](mailto:christine.elliott@ontario.ca)

**RE: AMO Delegation; Physician Recruitment and Retention in The Blue Mountains**

Dear Hon. Christine Elliott,

On behalf of the Town of The Blue Mountains, I would like to formally thank you for your attention and interest in discussing the importance of physician recruitment and retention during the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) 2020 Conference.

Your continued efforts as Minister of Health have continued to support communities in Ontario during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a growing rural municipality, the Town has been identified as an area of high physician need, but it is challenging to attract physicians through increased competition and incentives that larger municipalities are able to offer. As we discussed, the unique advantage for our community is the high-quality of life and standard of living, alongside the natural beauty and recreation that our region can offer. However, despite our best efforts, it remains difficult to recruit physicians.

Moving forward, additional support for rural municipalities is imperative to ensure that our communities can be successful in attracting and retaining physicians to support the growth and health of our community. The Town is requesting that the Ministry encourages existing Family Health Teams (FHT) in the area to expand their network and include more positions for the team in our community or allow the Town to create its own FHT governed by local health practitioners. We look forward to our continued discussions and creating more access to primary care physicians for residents in our community.

The Town has been successful in establishing a Joint Municipality Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee that's mandate is to look regionally for opportunities to enhance attracting and retaining physicians to address the areas in high need for physicians.

We look forward to our continued discussions on creating more access to primary care physicians for our residents and working with your Ministry to find creative, long term health care solutions for rural communities throughout the region and the province.

Yours Truly,



Mayor Alar Soever  
Town of The Blue Mountains

cc. Council, Town of The Blue Mountains (via e-mail)  
Shawn Everitt, CAO, Town of The Blue Mountains (via email)  
Tim Hendry, Manager of Economics & Development (via email)  
The Blue Mountains Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee (via email)  
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