

May 8, 2006

***HealthForceOntario* STRATEGY**

The McGuinty government is launching a new health human resources strategy, *HealthForceOntario*, to ensure that Ontario has the right supply and mix of health care professionals. As part of this strategy the government will:

- Establish new roles in high-need areas
- Develop Ontario's health care workforce
- Better equip Ontario to compete for health care professionals.

Establishing New Roles

In order to address the shortage of health care professionals in key areas, the government is adopting innovative new approaches to delivering these services. As part of this initiative, the government is helping to develop four new professional roles:

- Physician Assistant
- Nurse Endoscopist
- Surgical First Assist
- Clinical Specialist Radiation Therapist.

Developing Ontario's Health Care Workforce

Ontario has well-educated health care professionals that are among the best in the world. The government is working to ensure that Ontario has competitive job opportunities, professionals working in inter-professional teams, better education programs, and improved compensation and incentives. As part of this initiative, the government is:

- Guaranteeing that beginning in 2007, every nursing graduate in Ontario will be offered a full-time job in the province within a set period of time after graduation
- Setting up a one-stop centre for internationally educated health professionals to obtain the information they need to work in Ontario
- Developing new public education campaigns honouring the roles and contributions of Ontario's health care professionals and their commitment to team-based health care
- Holding a summit in June to bring industry leaders together to advance the agenda of inter-professional education and care delivery
- Funding a new fully inter-professional curriculum at the Michener Institute
- Funding MRI and CT teaching simulators at the Michener Institute
- Collecting and developing the data and expertise to better plan population health needs and changes in health care delivery – including fellowships and a health human resources expert advisory body

Better Equipping Ontario To Compete For Health Care Professionals

Ontario is in competition with other jurisdictions for health care providers. The government will be branding *HealthForceOntario* to develop a presence that goes beyond the province's border to convince health providers there that Ontario is the "employer of choice." As part of this initiative, the government is:

- Making Ontario more competitive through the establishment of a marketing and recruitment centre, including a comprehensive job portal. This portal will build on the expertise of the Professional Association of Internes and Residents of Ontario (PAIRO) and the New Health Professionals Network. PAIRO will be expanding its current physician job registry to create a new Ontario employment portal that includes province-wide job listings for needed health care professionals.
- Setting up a global phone number which health care professionals can use to reach the recruitment and marketing centre

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