



**AMO Delegation
Ministry of Health**

Representative:	Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister
Date:	Monday, January 19, 2026
Time:	10:55 AM - 11:10 AM
Location:	Sheraton Centre - Roosevelt Room.
Attending:	Saugeen Shores Delegates

Summary Ask

That the Ministry:

- **Sustain and enhance provincial funding for the Grey Bruce Ontario Health Team (GBOHT) to ensure the model can be fully implemented.**
- **Recognize that the current allocation represents only one-fifth of the documented need and commit to addressing the remaining operational and system-planning requirements identified by the GBOHT.**
- **Commit to ongoing OHT funding beyond 2027, ensuring long-term support for integrated primary care, population health, and local system transformation.**

Summary Issue

Appreciating the Initial Investment – and Identifying What Is Still Needed

Saugeen Shores appreciates the Ministry's recent investment in the GBOHT, which is an important step toward improving coordinated primary care in Grey and Bruce. The Town also welcomes the alignment with the new Primary Care Action Plan, which positions recruitment and team-based care at the provincial level.

Despite this progress, significant gaps remain. The current funding covers only 20% of the identified needs, leaving key support areas—such as helping residents navigate the system, enabling providers to share information, coordinating urgent care options, and addressing broader community health needs—without the resources required for full implementation.

Municipal Exposure Shifting – but System Gaps Still Require Attention

With the Primary Care Action Plan shifting recruitment responsibilities to the Province and OHTs, municipalities are relieved to see this work moving to the provincial level. However, gaps remain in urgent service access, care navigation, and local health infrastructure.

Without full OHT funding, municipalities are left addressing needs outside their mandate, creating inconsistent expectations across communities. Completing provincial investment in the GBOHT will help ensure stable, equitable service delivery across the region.



Saugeen Shores: A Growing Community

The Town of Saugeen Shores is a host community to Bruce Power housing upwards of 30% of their labour force. Saugeen Shores stands out as a community defined by its unique blend of urban advantages and rural character. As one of Ontario's fastest-growing municipalities, the Town has seen a **16%** increase in population since the last census—nearly three times the provincial average. This momentum, sustained through consecutive census years, illustrates a place where modern conveniences and rural tranquility coexist. The community is attracting families with children under 15 (**27.8%**) and adults aged 25 to 44 (**29.4%**), reflecting the appeal of a setting that offers both the dynamism of a growing town and the welcoming nature of a rural environment.

Economic opportunity in Saugeen Shores is anchored by Bruce Power, Canada's largest nuclear generation station, which supports a balanced, forward-thinking local economy. The Life-Extension Program at Bruce Power has sustained thousands of jobs, drawing talent and expertise from a wide area.

Tourism continues to play a vital role in Saugeen Shores, with seasonal visitors often returning to become part of the community. The population of residents aged 65 and older has grown by **36.2%** since the last census, highlighting the Town's appeal to those seeking a balanced lifestyle post-retirement. Here, newcomers and long-time residents alike find opportunities to enjoy local amenities, outdoor spaces, and a pace of life that complements personal and professional aspirations.

Saugeen Shores' diversity adds further depth to its character. Over **11%** of residents are newcomers to Canada, and nearly **8%** identify as racialized. Close collaboration with Saugeen First Nation, through shared facilities and ongoing projects, reflects a commitment to inclusivity and partnership. Across backgrounds and stages of life, people are drawn to the Town for its balanced mix of opportunities, services, and community spirit.

Today, Saugeen Shores continues to evolve as a regional hub where the richness of urban amenities meets the warmth of rural tradition. This balance—carefully cultivated and naturally present—offers residents and newcomers alike the space to thrive, connect, and enjoy a lifestyle that truly offers the best of both worlds.



Supporting Background

The Province has made significant progress in strengthening primary care, including through the Primary Care Action Plan and expanded OHT responsibilities. However, the on-the-ground realities in fast-growing communities like Saugeen Shores highlight the need for fully funded OHT operations.

The AMO 2025 Recruitment Pulse Survey reported that municipalities and hospitals collectively recruited 291 physicians in one year, yet more than 690 vacancies remain across responding communities. This gap demonstrates the scale of provincial system demand and the importance of coordinated regional approaches supported by long-term, predictable provincial funding.

Ontario Health Teams are designed to provide that coordination—bringing together primary care, hospitals, municipal partners, mental health providers, and community organizations. To do so effectively, OHTs require stable funding for system planning, data integration, navigation supports, and population health strategies. The GBOHT has already completed extensive work to identify these requirements, but to date only one-fifth of the identified funding has been approved.

Without additional support, key components of regional integration—such as care navigation, after-hours solutions, and local urgent care pathways—will remain fragmented, placing additional pressure on residents, providers, and municipalities.

Provincial Alignment

Strengthening Access to Care

Completing the GBOHT funding package directly supports equitable primary care access and the implementation of the Primary Care Action Plan.

Supporting Responsible System Transformation

Fully funding OHT needs ensures that work is coordinated regionally, avoids duplication, and strengthens system-wide alignment.

Ensuring Predictable Service Levels in High-Growth Communities

Communities like Saugeen Shores require stable, long-term provincial commitments to meet the needs of rapidly growing populations.

Advancing Health Equity

Sustained OHT funding helps ensure that mid-sized and rural communities are not disadvantaged by limited local tax capacity or uneven local resources.

Reinforcing Provincial–Municipal Collaboration

Ongoing and complete GBOHT funding demonstrates shared accountability in delivering integrated, community-based health solutions.



Saugeen Shores Delegation Members

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