

From: Simone Thibault <Sthibault@centretownchc.org>
Sent: January 24, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Subject: Pre-Budget Consultation: written submission from Centretown Community Health Centre

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From: Centretown Community Health Centre/Centre de santé communautaire du Centre-ville (Ottawa)
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs, Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Dear members of the committee,

We have four recommendations for the Ontario Budget 2020.

1. Funding to increase access to primary health care teams for clients with complex health needs who have non-team physicians. There are many primary care physicians who practice without a full team. Team-based care has been proven to be cost-effective and more effective for clients with complex health needs, than physician-only care. We propose funding to expand access to team care. Specifically, funds for new teams, funds to expand existing teams and funds for a facilitator for each Ontario Health Team (OHT) – a team care partnership facilitator. As a CHC that is an early adopter of an OHT working with many primary care models, we've quickly seen the value of introducing more team-based care in our team.
2. Funding to integrate health and social care through social prescribing. Most of our well-being is related to factors outside the health system. Social prescribing supports physicians to get the social determinants of health addressed in the community, freeing physicians to address clinical issues. There is good evidence that social prescribing by physicians through a social prescribing navigator improves health outcomes and decreases health service utilization. Social prescribing navigators based in team-based primary care settings are needed. The Centretown Community Health Centre participated in a recent pilot project and it has demonstrated great results for both the person accessing services and the primary care and social services teams.
3. Emergency safe supply of opioids and safe injection sites. Preventable deaths from poisoned drug supply is a public health crisis in Ontario. For some people whose dependence is not responding to usual treatment, a safe supply is needed. Specifically, we need to remove barriers to access to injectable safe drugs and access to hydromorphone tablets. Restoration of funding to de-funded supervised consumption services is also needed. These measures will reduce deaths from overdose and drug poisoning. At Centretown CHC, we work with people who are affected by this opioids crisis and hope that this recommendation can be implemented within this budget.
4. Support infrastructure for community health. Community-governed primary health care organizations have not received a base funding increase in many years; 8 years to be exact. This government has supported small hospitals with their funding pressures. Community health needs the same in order to address rising costs and deliver the innovative services that help end hallway health care.

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Thank you in advance taking our recommendations under serious consideration.

Kind regards,

Simone Thibault

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