

## Improving access to specialist consultation services in Caledon

Residents of Caledon will soon have improved access to local specialist physician services.

This is thanks to funding from the Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and a partnership between Caledon Community Services and Headwaters Health Care Centre. The new Caledon specialist consultation service will be on the lower level of the Royal Courtyards at 18 King St. East in Bolton, where patients will be seen locally by specialists, eliminating the need to travel outside town for specialist care.

Investing in health care services that provide residents with care closer to home is a top priority for the Central West LHIN, LHIN Board Chair Maria Britto commented. This program is a fine example of what can be achieved when health care organizations, local doctors, and specialists work together to improve local access to care. We are pleased that there will be an option for Caledon residents so that they will no longer face lengthy travel times to access specialist care.

Initially, specialists will come from Headwaters and will include general and orthopedic surgeons, obstetricians and gynecologists, and pediatricians. Appointments will be made for patients through referrals from local family doctors. As the service grows it is expected that other specialist physicians will become part of the service.

Our partnership with the Central West LHIN and Headwaters Health Care Centre continues to reap tremendous rewards for the Caledon community, paving the way for excellent community-based health care for residents, Caledon Community Services CEO Monty Laskin. In the coming weeks we look forward to inviting local residents and health care providers to a grand opening and open house to launch this new service.

The site will also feature access to the Ontario Telemedicine Network, making it possible to access other health care providers throughout the province via videoconferencing for consultations. A focus of the Ontario Telemedicine service is improving access to mental health and addiction services.

Headwaters is pleased to be involved in this unique partnership that will further support physicians and their patients, Headwaters CEO Liz Ruegg said.