

Ontario Priorities Panel on Primary Care

The OurCare Ontario Priorities Panel brought together 35 people living in Ontario, randomly selected to roughly match the province's demographics. They spent approximately 40 hours learning from experts and deliberating together before making recommendations on what a better primary care system should look like. OurCare will also be conducting Priorities Panels in Quebec, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Manitoba in 2023. For more information, visit OurCare.ca/PrioritiesPanels.

Ontario Priorities Panel At-a-Glance

35 members
17 speakers
39 program hours
23 recommendations

Members' Values

Equity • Accountability
• Continuity •
Data-Enabled •
Transparency • Public
and Universal •
Evidence-based •
Sustainable •
Accessible •
Patient-Centred •
Holistic, Intersectional,
and Culturally
Responsive

Recommendation Highlights:

Interoperability

- Legislate and enforce data standards that allow interoperability between different electronic medical record systems
- Ensure patient access to their personal health data

Expansion of Coverage

- Expand OHIP coverage to mental health, vision, dental, and pharmacare
- Expand our understanding of primary care to include Indigenous modes of thinking and knowing
- Strengthen links between primary care practitioners and community agencies

Models of Care

- Expand team-based care to every resident of Ontario
- Connect stand alone walk-in clinics to team-based care organizations
- Implement province-wide automatic rostering system for patients that maintains an element of patient choice
- Develop a centralised digital referral platform for specialist care
- Invest a greater proportion of total healthcare funding in primary care

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The problems we want solved

Fragmented primary care system • Inequities in access to and quality of care • Obsolescent data systems • Health human resource crisis • Primary care is not prioritized in health system planning

Recommendation Highlights (cont'd):

Accountability

- Develop accountability measures for each of the values identified by the Panel. Monitor and assess compliance
- Hold Ontario accountable to the principles of the Canada Health Act
- Ensure community members are included in the governance of primary care organizations

Recruitment and Medical Education

- Increase the number of seats for primary care residencies
- Integrate newcomer practitioners and improve accreditation processes for immigrant primary care providers
- Examine and address the reasons fewer medical students are choosing to practice comprehensive family medicine

Public Education

- Educate the public on their rights, including their right to their medical records, by creating a “Health Rights 101” for all Ontarians.
- Educate the public on the value of primary care by developing an education campaign that outlines its contribution towards long-term health



OurCare is a national initiative to engage the public on the future of primary care in Canada. Over 15 months, thousands of people living in Canada told us about their hopes and priorities for creating an equitable and sustainable system that delivers better care for all. OurCare is led by Dr. Tara Kiran, a family physician at St. Michael's Hospital and Scientist at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Unity Health Toronto, and the Fidani Chair of Improvement and Innovation at the University of Toronto. Learn more about the OurCare study: [OurCare.ca](https://www.ourcare.ca).