Hamilton, Ontario

A leader in providing innovative and collaborative care.
Present Situation

• Provincial trends mirrored in Hamilton
• Average age is 51
• 35% are of retirement age
• 346 family physicians for a population of 500,000 +
• Physician to population ratio of 1:1,460 (1:1,380 recommended)
Physician Recruitment and Retention Program

Cash and in-kind funding:
- Federal Government (one-time grant)
- City of Hamilton
- McMaster University **
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- St. Joseph’s Healthcare **
- St. Peter’s Healthcare
- Juravinski Cancer Centre
- Hamilton Academy of Medicine *
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce *

Budget = $135,000 per year
Successes

• 25 new family physicians started
• Retention of existing physicians
• 1st point of contact for new and existing physicians
• Most accurate, up-to-date database in the city
Challenges

• Funding

• Retiring physicians
  – 35 practicing and 65 and older
  – 36 between 60 and 64

• Citizens unable to access timely primary care
Solutions

1. Stable funding
2. Retain existing physicians
3. Recruit new physicians
4. Underserviced designation