



Northern Ontario  
School of Medicine  
École de médecine  
du Nord de l'Ontario  
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March 16, 2022

Wendy Landry, President  
Northern Ontario Municipal Association  
Email: [president@noma.on.ca](mailto:president@noma.on.ca)

RE: NOSM Expansion Announcement

Dear Wendy,

I write with deep humility and appreciation for your efforts and advocacy for medical education expansion for NOSM. Your voices were heard loud and clear and yesterday the Ontario government added 30 more undergraduate and 41 additional postgraduate positions to our complement to roll out over the next 5 years. The [government press](#) release and the [NOSM media release](#) are attached.

I would be so grateful if you could send this message to the Mayors, Councillors and City Councils on my behalf to say: Thank you, Merci, Marsi, Miigwetch.

Collectively you helped us take a valued and important step in transforming the health-care system in Northern Ontario. With these increases we will eliminate the gaps in health human resources and create equitable access to care in northern Ontario. Now, NOSM will be Canada's first independent medical university and with your ongoing support we will continue to be one of the greatest education and physician workforce strategy success stories of Northern Ontario.

Please accept my sincere gratitude for everything you all did and have done for NOSM. I look forward to speaking at NOMA's annual meeting in April and at the FONOM meeting in May.

With warm regards,

Sarita Verma BA, LLB, MD, CCFP, FCFP  
Dean, President, and CEO  
Northern Ontario School of Medicine

cc: Andrea Strawson, Executive Director

## NEWS RELEASE

# Ontario Training More Doctors as it Builds a More Resilient Health Care System

## Province Launching Largest Expansion of Medical School Education in Over 10 Years

March 15, 2022

[Office of the Premier](#)

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BRAMPTON — The Ontario government is expanding medical school education as it continues to build a stronger, more resilient health care system, especially in growing and underserved communities. Ontario is adding 160 undergraduate seats and 295 postgraduate positions over the next five years, the largest expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate education in over 10 years.

“As our province grows, our government has a plan to build a stronger, more resilient health care system,” said Premier Doug Ford. “We’ve already shored up domestic production of critical supplies like PPE and have added thousands more hospital beds. Now, building on our work to recruit and retain nurses and personal support workers, we’re launching the largest expansion of medical education in ten years.”

This expansion will support all six medical schools across Ontario, including the University of Toronto’s new Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health, the Queen’s-Lakeridge Health Campus, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Western University, McMaster University and the University of Ottawa. Medical seats will also be allotted to the new Ryerson School of Medicine in Brampton when it becomes operational.

“Ontario’s health care professionals are some of the finest practitioners in the world and that is a testament to the education they receive through Ontario’s universities and colleges,” said Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities. “This expansion will increase access to family and specialty physicians and other health care professionals in every corner of the province to ensure that Ontarians can access the health care they need, when they need it, wherever they may live.”

Expanded undergraduate and postgraduate medical school positions will be allocated as follows:

- Ryerson University will receive 80 undergraduate seats and 95 postgraduate positions
- University of Toronto will receive 30 undergraduate seats and 45 postgraduate positions
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine will receive 30 undergraduate seats, and 41 postgraduate positions
- Queen’s University will receive 20 undergraduate seats and 30 postgraduate positions
- Western University, McMaster University and University of Ottawa will each receive 28 postgraduate positions.

“Ontario’s doctors are key partners of a strong and sustainable health care system,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Supporting more students to become physicians is a key part of our plan to build up our health care workforce and ensure patients can access the care they need no matter where they live.”

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### Quick Facts

- The University of Toronto’s new Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health will also receive funding for enrolment in life sciences and physical therapy programs.
  - To strengthen the health and long-term care workforce, [Ontario is investing \\$342 million](#), beginning in 2021-22, to add over 5,000 new and upskilled registered nurses and registered practical nurses as well as 8,000 personal support workers. In addition, Ontario is investing \$57.6 million, beginning in 2022-23, to hire 225 nurse practitioners in the long-term care sector.
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### Quotes

"As a growing city with pressing healthcare needs, I'm proud of the fact that the first new medical school in Ontario in over 30 years is being built right here in Brampton. After years of chronic staffing shortages, budget cuts, and neglect from previous governments, our community is finally getting our fair share. Brampton's new medical school will give the eager students of today the opportunity to become the skilled doctors serving our community tomorrow — improving access and quality of care for all Bramptonians."

- Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria  
MPP for Brampton South

"Ryerson University will offer a new approach to medical education in Ontario — one that draws on the university's commitment to community, diversity and inclusion, and innovation to address the changing needs for healthcare delivery and practice. We are encouraged and grateful for this announcement of long-term investment by the government of Ontario and we look forward to shaping the future of healthcare with our partners in Brampton and Peel region."

- Mohamed Lachemi  
President & Vice-Chancellor, Ryerson University

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## Additional Resources

- [Ontario Training More Health Care Workers at Indigenous Institutes](#)
- [Ontario is investing \\$35 million to increase enrolment in nursing education programs in publicly-assisted colleges and universities across the province](#)
- [Ontario is investing over \\$115 million to train up to 8,200 new PSWs at publicly assisted colleges](#)
- [Ontario is providing \\$86 million to help train up to 8,000 PSWs through private career colleges and district school boards](#)
- [Ontario Enhancing Personal Support Worker Training](#)
- [Ontario Establishes New Independent Universities in Northern Ontario](#)

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## Related Topics

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# NOSM University expansion to aid with Northern Ontario physician shortage

Posted on March 15, 2022



*Additional spots for MD and residency will contribute to long-term sustainability of physician workforce*

On March 15, 2022 the Government of Ontario announced medical school expansion across the province. With this announcement, NOSM University will see an added 30 medical degree and 41 residency spots over the next five years.

“Thank you to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health Christine Elliott and Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop for making changes that will impact the health of our Northern communities,” says Dr. Sarita Verma, Dean, President and CEO of NOSM. “They have supported the creation of Canada’s first independent medical university effective April 1 and now, with this expansion, are providing new physician spots for the North. It is an exciting time for NOSM University.”

According to NOSM’s estimates, more than 300 physicians are needed in the North and that number does not factor retirements that may take place over the next five years.

“As part of our promise to deliver high quality health care to all parts of Ontario, we are ensuring that the doctors of tomorrow have access to the world-class training that Ontario’s medical schools provide,” says Premier Doug Ford. “This is the largest expansion of medical education in 10 years and is a key element to building a stronger and more resilient province for generations to come.”

NOSM’s latest strategic plan, *The NOSM Challenge 2025*, will move forward with addressing the urgent physician workforce shortage, innovate health professions education and strengthen research capacity while embedding social accountability throughout.

“This is another important step in transforming the health-care system in Northern Ontario to eliminate the gaps in health human resources and create equitable access to care,” says Dr. Verma. “We cannot underestimate the impact that Northern Ontarians make when they pull together and advocate for change. I want to particularly acknowledge the Ontario Medical Association, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and their members. Municipalities, big, small and all, have had loud voices heard at Queen’s Park.”

NOSM currently enrolls 64 MD students and 60 first-year residents per year.

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*NOSM University is Canada’s first independent medical university and one of the greatest education and physician workforce strategy success stories of Northern Ontario. More than just a medical university, it was purpose built to address the health needs of the region. While advocating for equitable access to care, the University contributes to the economic development of Northern Ontario. NOSM University relies on the commitment and expertise of the peoples of Northern Ontario to educate health-care professionals to practise in Indigenous, Francophone, rural, remote and underserved communities. With a focus on diversity, inclusion and advocacy, NOSM University is an award-winning, socially accountable organization renowned for its innovative model of distributed, community-engaged education and research.*

Through evidence-based strategies and health-care service models, NOSM University advocates for sustainable solutions for health human resources in Northern Ontario. By preparing, attracting and retaining health-care professionals, the University will improve access to equitable, high-quality health care in the North with an aim to eliminate the gaps.

For further information about NOSM, please contact:

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