



CP SCOOP – January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## PROVINCIAL UPDATES

[Ontario Adding Over 500 Hospital Beds to Expand Critical Care Capacity](#) - The Ontario government is providing up to \$125 million to immediately add over 500 critical care and high intensity medicine beds to hospitals in areas with high rates of COVID-19 transmission. A portion of the funding will also be used to temporarily transition Mackenzie Health's Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital into a systemwide resource supporting the province's COVID-19 response when the new hospital is scheduled to open on February 7th, 2021. These initiatives will help relieve pressures on nearby hospitals due to rapid increases in hospitalization and ICU occupancy rates.

---

[Francophone Non-Profit Organizations can begin Applying for the COVID-19 Relief Fund on January 25th, 2021](#) - The Ontario government announced today that starting January 25th, francophone non-profit organizations can begin applying for financial assistance from the \$1 million COVID-19 Relief Fund. The fund, which is being administered by the *Assemblée de la francophonie de l'Ontario*, will provide operational funding to eligible organizations to support them during the pandemic.

## OTHER UPDATES

**Ottawa Valley Family Medicine Obstetrics Program Launches New Website** - Women in Lanark County, the Ottawa Valley and west Ottawa now have a new resource to support their low-risk pregnancy care. The Ottawa Valley Family Medicine Obstetrics team (FMOB) has [launched a new website](#) which provides a complete overview of the program, as well as a variety of resources for families.

"We wanted to create a website that provided reliable and accurate information to women in our community," explains Dr. Julie Stewardson. "We also wanted to increase awareness of care options for pregnant women in our region and provide them the information they needed to advocate for their care."

Members of the FMOB team have privileges at Almonte General Hospital. Patients benefit from a family medicine philosophy focused on whole person care, including access to a social worker and dietitian.

The team includes Dr. Julie Stewardson, Dr. Ursula McGarry, Dr. Amy Toderian, and Administrative Assistant Sandy Guppy. The group is being supported by Dr. Nathalie Slaney for four months, from January to the end of April 2021. These family physicians have specialty training in family medicine as well as obstetrics. Together, they have 48 years of cumulative experience delivering babies. The team is also skilled in newborn care and provide care for Moms and newborns at delivery and in the first days of life.

Almonte General Hospital is the only rural hospital in this region providing a full range of low-risk obstetrical services, including 24/7 coverage by an obstetrician and pain management services. Our multidisciplinary team includes Obstetrician/Gynecologists, Family Physicians, Midwives, specially- trained Nurses and Anesthetists. The unit has five (5) private postpartum rooms with their own washroom and shower, two (2) labour and delivery rooms, showers, and an operating room for cesarean sections. Our Diagnostic Imaging team offers a full range of advanced ultrasound services and patients can book ultrasound appointments by calling 613-256-2514, extension 2114. For details, please visit our website at [www.agh-fvm.com](http://www.agh-fvm.com).

---

**The Language Express Preschool Speech and Language Program is Here to Help!** - Language Express is open and ready to help your child make progress on speech and language. Services are currently being provided via telepractice (telephone and secure videoconferencing).

Most assessment and therapy sessions are very successful online. With younger children we are mostly providing parent education and coaching parents as they interact with their children, and older children usually enjoy doing some fun activities and games with us online. Families who cannot access telepractice due to technology issues can arrange to come in to one of our offices and use a room and computer to connect with their speech-language pathologist. For a few children telepractice is not appropriate due to their needs, and for these families we may offer limited in-person visits, with precautions in place to keep everyone safe.

Early intervention is more important than ever. Don't wait for the pandemic to be over! With physical isolation and other COVID precautions babies, toddlers, and preschoolers have fewer opportunities to interact with other people and this can affect their communication development. The impact can be even greater for children with special needs. Check the speech and language milestones on our website and call us if you have any concerns.

Our Speech-Language Pathologists and Communicative Disorders Assistants can help your child and provide helpful ideas for you and your child's teachers. **The deadline for referring children entering Junior Kindergarten in 2021 (born in 2017) is November 30th, 2021.** After November 30<sup>th</sup> we will only accept referrals for children born in 2018 or later. It is never too early to refer if you have concerns. Language Express services are funded by the province and are free for families. Call 1-888-503-8885 or go to our website for more information: [www.language-express.ca](http://www.language-express.ca).