



**Family doctors - with you in sickness and in health
May 1 is Ontario Doctors' Day**

(Toronto - May 1, 2016) - Your family doctor is by your side in the short term and for the long haul. There when you are born, and as you grow, as you build your own family and as you get older, your family doctor is your partner in sickness and in health.

“Caring for a person and a family over time allows a family doctor to truly understand a patient’s story, family and context,” said Ontario College of Family Physicians President Dr. Sarah-Lynn Newbery. “Our focus is on the whole person, regardless of age or sex, and no matter the illness. It is through that focus on the person that we help people prioritize their health issues and integrate their care.”

Family doctors care for patients in many ways, they diagnose and manage brief illness and chronic disease, help make connections with specialists and provide ongoing care after a hospitalization. They make sure your baby is healthy and provide palliative care at the end of life. Working in clinics, hospitals, long-term care facilities, hospices and in the community, family doctors are advocates for the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

“Family medicine is at the heart of our health-care system,” said Dr. Newbery. “Research shows that people who have an ongoing relationship with a primary care physician have better overall health outcomes and lower total costs of care. The relationship between a person and their family doctor is at the core of our work as family physicians and our work is important to the ongoing health of the people of Ontario.”

May 1 is Ontario Doctors’ Day, a day to say thank you and to celebrate the contributions family doctors make to support the health of patients, families and communities. Ontario Doctors’ Day is celebrated annually, on the birthday of Dr. Emily Stowe, Canada's first female practicing physician.

The OCFP proudly celebrates the valuable role family doctors play across our health care system. The OCFP video [Family Medicine Matters](#), features the voices of family doctors from across the province who share what they love about family medicine and the work they do daily.

About the OCFP

The OCFP provides high-quality, evidence-based education, promotes family doctor leadership and advocates for the vital role of family doctors in Ontario’s health-care system. With more than 10,500 members, we are the provincial Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and are an essential voice for family medicine in Ontario.

- 30 -

For more information:

Heather Howe

Outreach and Communications Officer, Ontario College of Family Physicians

Phone: 416-867-9646 ext 33 | Mobile: 647-534-9921

hhowe@cfpc.ca