

## Peterborough Ontario Health Team Town Hall Executive Summary

November 2021

### Background

Peterborough Ontario Health Team (POHT) hosted four (4) Town Halls in September 2021 to seek input from the community on our local healthcare system and future community priorities. Members of the POHT Steering Committee and Formal Alliance Partners directed the consultations. Quantitative data (e.g. poll results) and qualitative data (e.g. verbatim and written comments from participants) were collected, reviewed and compiled.

One hundred and twenty people participated by attending a virtual session or completing the online survey. Participants were community members, and representatives from twenty-five agencies from the Peterborough area.

### Session Results/Themes

Most participants reported they were familiar POHT's work, with only 20 per cent indicating that they were not familiar with the work of POHT. Participants' ages reflected current local demographics. Most participants reported their place of residence to be Peterborough City or County.

Participants offered their perspectives on the current work of POHT, and:

- Strongly supported continuing to focus on POHT's current priority populations (frail, complex, elderly patients and those using mental health and addictions services);
- Ranked the following top three (3) factors that impact health: housing and homelessness; access to healthcare; and income.

Five (5) themes emerged from participants' comments. These themes, listed in priority order, are:

- Theme 1** Prioritize timely and efficient access to healthcare to address needs in community
- Theme 2** Strengthen collaboration and communication among healthcare providers
- Theme 3** Create better healthcare options for people who face greater barriers to accessing current services, especially senior and homeless populations
- Theme 4** Health human resources
- Theme 5** Address social determinants of health

### Next Steps

A comprehensive report was presented to the POHT Steering Committee in November 2021 for consideration and action. The POHT Steering Committee will use the report when determining current and future priorities for the next one (1) to two (2) years.

