



To Mayor Doug Elmslie & City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss how additional funding will help support access to primary health care for residents of your district, specifically those serviced by the Kirkfield Nurse Practitioner Clinic.

Nurse Practitioner Clinics provide a wide range of primary health care services to people of all ages. They can improve access to primary health care for clients in rural and underserved areas. Additionally, time is reserved for urgent care appointments for registered clients, helping to reduce the need for emergency department visits and easing the load on hospitals.

At VON our Nurse Practitioners (NPs) work with clients to help them maintain the best level of health possible while respecting their individual wishes and preferences. They diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications and perform medical procedures. They provide comprehensive care that promotes physical, psychological and social wellness. NPs can also help patients and their families access other providers and services that are important in the management of health conditions.

In the last fiscal year, the Kirkfield Nurse Practitioner Clinic provided over 1550 visits to clients. Some of the services provided include:

- Immunizations
- Screening, such as for heart disease, diabetes, and mental health
- Curative care, such as for acute episodic illness and injury
- Rehabilitative care, such as for chronic disease, ongoing injury or disability
- Supportive care, such as education, counselling, and palliative
- Referrals to other specialists
- Phlebotomy services

The population serviced by the Kirkfield Nurse Practitioner Clinic includes all ages, with the largest cohort over the age of 65. Older populations tend to require greater care, time and resources due to a greater complexity and an increased number of comorbidities.

Historically, NP recruitment in Kirkfield has been challenging, mostly due to the more rural geography as more and more NP positions are being offered in urban centres. We unfortunately lost our NP back in the spring, and while we have pivoted to extend virtual visits and share staff across sites where possible, the loss of the NP further limited access to primary health care for the local residents. Travelling outside of the community for health care and services may also pose additional challenges and costs.

Fortunately, we have been able to recruit a highly experienced NP. Unfortunately, they live further away, which has resulted in increased travel and accommodation costs. With this in mind, we are kindly requesting an additional \$15,000 in funding for the Kirkfield Nurse Practitioner Clinic to offset these costs. This will allow for regular clinic hours and in person client visits to remain



consistent and sustainable. Without this funding our alternative is to close the clinic, leaving Kirkfield without the primary health care it needs.

In a recent survey, 97% would recommend VON Nurse Practitioner Clinics to others with a 99% overall client satisfaction rating. It is clear that Nurse Practitioner Clinics provide a highly beneficial and fiscally responsible model of sustainable health care. I strongly encourage you to consider our request to ensure the community health benefits afforded by the Kirkfield Nurse Practitioner Clinic remain in place. Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out. I kindly thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Davina Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Davina Wong  
Regional Executive Director  
Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada – Ontario Branch



Appendix A – Current and Proposed Budget

	Proposed Budget Adjusted	Present State	Variance to present state
MOH and Ontario Provincial Grants	\$ 431,606	\$ 431,606	\$ -
City of Kawartha Lakes grants	\$ 123,843	\$ 108,843	\$ 15,000
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$ 555,449</b>	<b>\$ 540,449</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
Nurse Practitioner Salary	\$ 244,374	\$ 244,374	\$ -
Administration Salary	\$ 81,681	\$ 81,681	\$ -
Employee Benefits	\$ 62,230	\$ 62,230	\$ -
Collaborating Physician	\$ 21,554	\$ 21,554	\$ -
<b>Total Compensation Costs</b>	<b>\$ 409,839</b>	<b>\$ 409,839</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Program costs	\$ 8,723	\$ 8,723	\$ -
<b>Nurse Practitioner Travel costs</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
Occupancy costs	\$ 49,987	\$ 49,987	\$ -
General administration and back office	\$ 71,900	\$ 71,900	\$ -
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 555,449</b>	<b>\$ 540,449</b>	<b>\$ 15,000</b>



Appendix B – Funding by Location

	Proposed Budget Adjusted	Present State	Variance to present state
Lindsay	\$ 48,979	\$ 48,979	\$ -
Kirkfield	\$ 74,864	\$ 59,864	\$ 15,000
	\$ 123,843	\$ 108,843	\$ 15,000