



**Great River Ontario Health Team**  
**Lived Experience Partners**  
**Community Member Information Sheet**

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Lived Experience Partners refers to patients (hospital or primary care), residents (Long term care), clients (home and community care), families and caregivers.

**Who We Are**

Ontario is committed to a sustainable health care system centred on the needs of patients, clients and residents. The province has introduced Ontario Health Teams as a new model of care that brings together health care providers to work as one team.

The Great River Ontario Health Team was announced as an official team that will work collaboratively to implement a new model of delivering health care that better connects patients/clients and providers in their communities to improve outcomes. The vision of the Great River Ontario Health Team is: “Where everyone’s health and well-being matter!” The cornerstone to this model is the involvement of People With Lived Experience. Our Ontario Health Team is committed to a vibrant and responsive local health care system, developed uniquely to meet the needs of our communities. Through integration and collaboration, we will relentlessly strive to be better. Working together as partners, we will build a quality focused, equity driven, outcome-based, sustainable health care system that will improve the well-being of all.

**Who We Are Looking For**

Our Ontario Health Team is actively seeking community members who have experience in managing chronic health conditions in themselves or others to participate on the Expert Group with diverse lived experience, visible minorities, persons with disabilities. This table reports to a Steering Committee that meets regularly to carry out the tasks and activities of our Ontario Health Team.

We encourage participation of People With Lived Experience who receive services in Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, City of Cornwall, rural Southeast Ottawa and Russell Township, and Akwesasne who represent both rural and urban settings. The Expert Table membership is extended to all community residents aged 18 years and up. Our Ontario Health Team is looking for 8-10 members and will be provided with support to co-lead the Expert Group.

Efforts to recruit from equity-deserving groups who face additional barriers, discrimination and racism will be a priority. Whenever possible we will seek voices from individuals with experiences of health inequity and who bring a different perspective to the table.

Through your active engagement, the Expert Group will represent the lived experience and be the voice of people in our catchment area in the co-design, development, implementation and evaluation of the Ontario Health Team's programs and services.

### **How You Can Make a Difference**

With respect to People With Lived Experience, candidates should be able to:

- Share insights, ideas, or information about your lived experience in ways that others can learn from them.
- Be passionate about improving the health care system and experience.
- Listen to allow others time to speak their truth and/or perspective.
- Provide different points of view and respect others.
- Work well with a diverse group of people.
- Actively participate
- Assist in the development and implementation of a work plan
- Commit to a minimum of a two-year term, with a maximum term not to exceed four years.

### **Why This Is Important?**

Engaging people regarding the health system needs and the development of a new model of integration is critical to the success of our plan to improve health system integration. Your involvement in this Expert Group will allow for dialogue as you advise the Ontario Health Team on issues and perspectives. This is an opportunity for you to make a difference in the coordination and delivery of healthcare in your community!

### **Time Requirement and Reimbursement**

Time commitments can vary depending on the opportunity you wish to be involved in. The Great River OHT has different levels of commitment available, depending on your availability. The Lived Experience Partner Table will seek to convene at least 8 times per year, in addition to involvement in working groups/committees/tables. The time required of a member will vary depending on the level of involvement that you chose. The minimum time required will be approximately 2 hours per month.

While this is a volunteer position, successful candidates will qualify to receive reimbursement for travel related expenses where appropriate and other approved costs required to support membership.

### **We are recruiting for a variety of opportunities:**

#### Members for the Great River OHT Lived Experience Partner Table.

LEPT is an organized group of patients, families, caregivers and people with lived experience who will become an important team within our OHT. It has the potential of contributing to decision making throughout the many levels of our GW OHT. Its goal is to contribute patient and family voice to the ongoing design and development of an equitable, integrated healthcare system for our region. This has the potential to improve the health and well-being of the entire population of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, City of Cornwall, rural Southeast Ottawa and Russell Township and Akwesasne.

Time commitment is minimum 2 hours per month (set meeting times during the day) with opportunity for more project-based work on occasion. *Minimum 2-year commitment*

### Members to sit on Great River OHT working groups

The OHT has several ongoing working groups and tables that are made up of staff from the various healthcare partners across Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, City of Cornwall, rural Southeast Ottawa and Russell Township and Akwesasne. The OHT's goal is to have at least two patient partners on each of the OHT tables and working groups. There are several groups, each with their own area of focus.

On the application form you may indicate working group(s) or tables of interest. Each working group's members work collaboratively on different projects, initiatives, helping to lead the work for the OHT in that area of focus.

Time commitment varies per team or working group, but the commitment is around 2-5 hours per month (at set ahead daytime meetings). There is also opportunity for more required project-based work if you are interested. *Minimum 1 year commitment.*

### Occasional engagement as required

The Great River OHT is committed to becoming connected with a wide variety of healthcare users and their communities. We recognize that not every volunteer can make a regular commitment. There will be times throughout the year when the OHT will want to speak with a broader group. Over time there will be the need for a pool of patients, families, caregivers and people with various lived experiences to draw from, in order to understand patients' and families' experiences on a certain topic and their recommendations. This time commitment will vary and participation in the opportunities will be optional. *There is no ongoing commitment required.*

**The main method of communication about upcoming opportunities will be through email. The engagement may be virtual or in person.**

**For further information or to request the Expression of Interest form, please complete the Contact Us form on our website: <https://www.groht.ca/contact>**