

Annual Board Chair Report for the Smiths Falls Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic  
Board Chair: Nicole Smith, NP

September 30, 2023 - September 30, 2024

Vision Statement: *Better Health Together*

*As Board Chair, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of the NPLC board for your dedicated volunteer commitment to our clinic and the health of our community. The Smiths Falls Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic serves as a vital resource, delivering excellent, comprehensive primary health care to the residents of Smiths Falls and the surrounding counties of Leeds, Lanark, and Greenville.*

**Highlights of the Year:**

**Clinic Staffing:** This year will bring some changes to the clinic as NP Lead Brenda Louttit-Bunker announced her resignation August 2024 after working with the clinic for 12 years, 5 as the Lead NP. The position has been posted and interviews are underway. If we are unable to find a successful candidate, back-up plans are being made to ensure that the clinic continues to run smoothly.

**New Board Members:** Mike Andrews & Katie Bailey (returning). I am very pleased to welcome Mike to the board as he brings with him a wealth of experience working on community boards, as well as a very strong background in finance. I look forward to working with him and expanding our knowledge as a board. Katie has been a member of the NPLC board in the past and has 10 years' experience locally as a Nurse Practitioner. We continue to maintain >50% NP representation; with the rest of the board bringing a breadth of experience and skills.

**Board Training:** The board engaged in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training last year. We will also be engaging in further Board Governance Training this year, to be determined in the future.

**Ontario Health Teams:** Over the past year(s), our health care landscape has shifted significantly, and clinic staff have worked diligently to ensure they are actively involved in shaping local services while staying up to date with changes in service delivery. Leeann participates regularly in the Healthy Equity, Primary care Network Working Group, Privacy Community of Practice (Chair), and Attaching Residents to Primary Care groups.

**Advocacy:** Work toward pay equity for Nurse Practitioners is ongoing. A presentation was made to the town council highlighting the work of the NPLC in our community, as well as the role of Nurse Practitioners in Primary Health Care in general.

The NPLC board's strategic planning is due late 2025 for the 2026-29 cycle.