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Patient-Driven Care Centred Upon Caring, Inclusiveness And Respect ~ Les Soins, L'inclusion Et Le Respect Sont Au Coeur De Notre Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clinic 554 to open in Fredericton with badly needed family practice, reproductive health, and LGBTTQ services

In the coming weeks, Clinic 554 will open its doors to 600 patients awaiting a family doctor in Fredericton, New Brunswick, as well as many underserved communities, including transgender children, youth and adults, people newly infected with HIV, STIs or Hepatitis C, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited, and queer patients. Clinic 554 will also offer an array of reproductive health services, including contraception, cancer screening and pregnancy options, such as emergency IUDs, prenatal care and abortions.

Clinic 554's Medical Director, Dr. Adrian Eoin Edgar, says, "New Brunswick is more diverse than people think. There are a lot of people here with unique health needs but we're too strapped for cash. The Province is doing a lot – building Community Health Centres, bringing in allied providers like NPs and Midwives. We just wanted to do our part to contribute – to make sure all New Brunswickers have access to the same quality and range of healthcare services that other provinces have."

Reproductive Justice New Brunswick and the Fredericton Youth Feminists were instrumental in bringing Clinic 554 to the Province. In 2014, the groups garnered international attention when they raised over \$125,000 in support of reopening New Brunswick's only freestanding abortion clinic. "Reproductive justice is more than just abortions – it's safe, inclusive care for all genders and sexualities. We liked that Clinic 554 offers the whole package. It's a family doctor's office that cares about people where they're at, without discrimination. And it's a big deal for large numbers of New Brunswickers who have been sitting on a waitlist for years to get quality care" says RJNB's spokesperson, Jessi Taylor. "There's still a long way to go for abortion access – people have to pay out of pocket at the Clinic, when it's cheaper, faster and more confidential than in hospitals" says Taylor.

When asked if Edgar thinks abortions and trans* care might be a hard sell for others in the waiting room, he is clear: "We're a general practice so we take care of everyone. There's a wide range of services because there's a wide range of needs. We just try to let the patient's needs guide us and practice the safest standard of medicine we can. That's the job description." He adds, "People in New Brunswick are smart and caring. I think everyone knows these patients have a hard row to hoe, and they respect that."

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About Clinic 554

Clinic 554 is located in the recently closed Morgentaler Clinic at 554 Brunswick Street in Fredericton, New Brunswick. For more information visit us at www.clinic.ca.