

Dear Physicians of WLMH,

We would like to thank you all on behalf of the students at McMaster Medical School who have had the privilege to rotate through WLMH with you. Your hard work has never gone unnoticed, and you are an inspiration to us all as we move through our medical training.

The announcement of the proposed “temporary” closure of services at West Lincoln had us concerned about the feasibility of garnering the support of our classmates and faculty. However, what followed was an outpouring of support and a mobilization of resources beyond what we could have imagined. It has been truly humbling to see how the positive experiences at WLMH have impacted so many of our peers. To see how quickly faculty, medical learners, and the community as a whole have rallied behind the hospital is a testament to the incredible work you all do each day; it shows the indelible impact you have had in the community, making WLMH fundamental to what makes the communities of Niagara West so great.

The broad scope of practice each of you delivers with care and compassion has shown us the value of rural medicine early in our training. The model of care at West Lincoln is like no other, and we feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to see first hand the way your kindness and expertise pervades through your interactions with patients, learners, and staff alike. Whether in the Obstetrics program, the Emergency Department, the OR, or on the wards, we have all had experiences and memories that will invariably have been career-defining for us. The exposure and mentorship we have received guided us to the positions which we are in today, and we thank you for being such passionate teachers to us all.

The advocacy you each embody for our community is admirable, and a sterling example of what we aspire to be one day. Your obvious care for the community in which you work has led us to love and value it as well. In this time of flux and uncertainty, what we can say without a doubt is that you have made a lasting impression on us all and the innumerable students who came before us. You had a crucial role in shaping the future physicians who will continue on your work, and we are forever grateful for all you have done. As this movement grows we will continue to support your work however we can. We hope to share with the entire province the value that each of you, through WLMH, brings to our learning and development.

With hope and determination,

McMaster Medical Students

Carlos Chan, Jessica Chan, Delia Dragomir, Alison Knapp, Amanda Lee & Christina Weber