



The Rural News

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'Keeping the Rural Doctor Informed'

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ON-SRP Endorses OMA Deal

GRAND BEND ON- Rural physician leaders met this weekend to discuss the latest offer from the Ontario Medical Association. Dr Peter Englert, chair of the Ontario Region of the Society of Rural Physicians says "We endorse this offer. It is good for rural practice and good for the profession." All the rural friendly provisions in the old contract have been retained plus changes were made to allow even more rural doctors to bill fee for service and get rewarded for comprehensive care. The deal includes an immediate 2.5%(GP) and 2%(specialist) retroactive pay increase for all doctors. The new deal will make Ontario's doctors among the highest-paid in Canada, with physicians working in remote areas eligible for pay hikes of up to 35 per cent over four years. Dr Englert says "This offer should help stabilise the growing crisis in rural areas of the province by providing incentives for doctors to come and practice the broad spectrum general practice that is desperately needed in rural areas." Doctors vote on the deal in a telephone referendum March 20-28. While the vast majority of rural doctors voted for a previous offer it was rejected. Rural specific details are in the latest newsletter on the OMA Section on Rural Practice website nt.net/sorp and the contract itself is available through the OMA [website](http://www.oma.ca)

Montana Rural Med School

Montana is considering building a rural medical school. Currently it sends its prospective doctors to study at WWAMI, a regionalised medical school for students from Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. A new school at MSU in Billings will supplement that and produce students specifically for the largely rural Montana population. Florida State University's College of Medicine, the first new medical school in the US since 1982, will graduate its first class this year. Florida State won approval from the state Legislature to become the nation's 126th medical school by emphasizing family practice needed in rural areas and inner cities. In Arizona, Nevada, California and Florida are considering opening additional medical schools. Other states are considering expanding theirs.

[Gazette](#)



**13th Rural and Remote
Conference
"Rural Communities
and their Medical
Needs"**

April 28-30 Montreal
Details and registration at
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