



## **SFMH announces new Director of the Emergency Department**

St. Francis Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce that Dr. Alexandre Atfield will officially become the Director of the Emergency Department as of October 1, 2017.

Dr. Atfield has been serving unofficially in that capacity since mid-September.

“I am very pleased to welcome Alex to the role of Director of Emergency Department at SFMH. He brings to this role wonderful experience and a demonstrated commitment to patient care. This is an important time for our Department and Hospital as we move forward with our Emergency Redevelopment, and Alex will assist with this task,” says Randy Penney, SFMH President and CEO. Dr. Atfield replaces previous Director of ED, Dr. Pil Joo.

“We thank Dr. Joo for his dedication and work during his time as ED director,” added Greg McLeod, SFMH Chief Operating Officer. “We are very pleased that Dr. Joo will be remaining with SFMH as a physician working in our Emergency Department and Rainbow Valley CHC.”

Dr. Atfield earned his MSc Medical Science degree from the University of Toronto, his Medical Doctor at Queen’s University School of Medicine in Kingston, and Certification in Family Medicine at Queens’ University School of Medicine, Peterborough-Kawartha site.

Dr. Atfield began his career at SFMH in October 2014 and opened an office at the St. Francis Medical Centre clinic in January 2015. He provides home visits and sees patients in long-term care. He currently serves as the Medical Director on the SFMH Occupational Health Committee and the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program as well as Lead Physician of the Madawaska Valley Family Health organization, and maintains several professional memberships including the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians.

“In emergency medicine, we are always facing new challenges and I’m looking forward to leading our small, but very adaptive team for the next few years,” says Dr. Atfield.

He also noted that our community is facing a real shortage of primary care providers.

“We’re seeing more patients in the ER for their medication refills and chronic diseases like diabetes. We’re fortunate to have lots of innovative projects and professionals with different types of training in Barry’s Bay to help with this. I hope to build stronger connections with our paramedics, community care providers and larger regional hospitals,” he stated.

Dr. Atfield shared that he and his family are very happy to live in the Barry’s Bay area.

“I enjoy road cycling, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. I got married to my wife Erica in 2016 and we have a 15-month-old daughter named Audrey. We love living here for all the outdoor activities and the supportive community. Being able to take on a role like this so early in my career is also very exciting.”

Dr. Jason Malinowski, SFMH Chief of Staff, also welcomed Dr. Atfield to the new role.

“I’m excited to have Dr. Atfield assume the position of Director of ER at SFMH. He is an excellent clinician who easily develops rapport with patients and staff. He has been eager to take the lead on several projects already, and his transition to ER Director is the next logical step for SFMH,” says Dr. Malinowski.