

Appendix A

Biography—Michelle Foote

Michelle Foote completed medical school at the University of Ottawa in 2014. She subsequently received certification in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada and completed a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Fellowship in Public Health and Preventive Medicine (PHPM) at Queen's University. She also has a Masters degree in Public Health.

Michelle was born and raised in Stirling, a small rural town in Eastern Ontario. She developed an early passion for addressing health disparities, including rural health and the optimization of access to services. Throughout residency, Michelle completed placements in Eastern Ontario, spending the majority of her time at mixed urban-rural health units (Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit; Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington Public Health). She also completed placements in Moose Factory with the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority to better understand health issues unique to remote and Indigenous communities. She is currently collaborating on a research project with ICES investigators to explore differences in end-of-life care between rural and urban adults living with dementia in Ontario.

With particular interests in emergency preparedness and response, Michelle has led an update of a local health unit's emergency plans, as well as operated and managed a federal acute respiratory illness surveillance program. She has been actively involved in COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and response efforts, including outbreak prevention and control in school and congregate living settings, as well as consultation on case and contact management. Since beginning practice as a public health specialist in fall 2020, she has continued working on the pandemic response with Ottawa Public Health. She continues to practice family medicine as a locum hospitalist in Brockville and Winchester, Ontario.

In her spare time, you can find Michelle on a hiking trail with her two young children. She is looking forward to working with the RCDHU Team and getting to know the communities that they serve.