



Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health

La société ontarienne des professionnel(le)s
de la nutrition en santé publique

Lawrence Square
700 Lawrence Ave. West, Suite 310
Toronto, Ontario
M6A 3B4

The mission of OSNPPH is to provide leadership in public health nutrition. It represents its members and promotes their role in improving nutrition and health of people in Ontario

June 13, 2006

Honourable George Smitherman
Minister of Health and Long-term Care
80 Grosvenor St.,
10th floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Smitherman:

On behalf of the members of the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH), I am writing to you today to encourage you to proceed with many of recommendations presented by the Capacity Review Committee in their final report "Revitalizing Ontario's Public Health Capacity: The Final Report of the Capacity Review Committee". The recommendations put forth by the CRC committee will help to rebuild the public health system in Ontario to meet the provincial government's commitment to Healthier Ontarians.

While we recognize that some of the recommendations will be easier to implement than others, we support most of the priorities set out by the CRC committee.

In particular, we were encouraged by the CRC's vision of a revitalized public health workforce and agree that this is a crucial issue which needs to be implemented immediately. Making public health dietitian careers a sought after career path will help support the many roles that we have to play in promoting health and preventing disease. For example, nutrition personnel can assist in promoting healthy weights, preventing chronic diseases and encouraging healthy growth and development in infants and children.

OSNPPH would be pleased to assist the government in anyway that we can to help to implement the recommendations in the CRC's report. OSNPPH is well positioned to serve as the logical connecting point between the Ministry and the nutrition field with respect to consultation and follow through on the recommendations; for example, we

could survey our membership and would be pleased to provide representation on working groups.

With regard to Health Human Resources, OSNPPH has undertaken a partnership with the Dietitians of Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop discipline specific competencies for public health nutrition personnel. The overarching goal of this initiative is to identify and reference the competencies necessary to work in the field of public health dietetics. The project will benefit those working in public health currently as well as those new to public health and will further enhance our capability to deliver effective programs and services.

OSNPPH extends congratulations to the CRC committee for a thorough, well thought out and much needed report on strengthening the public health system in Ontario. We hope that there will be continued support and commitment from the government for the public health system by the development of a plan to implement the recommendations made by the CRC committee and that a financial commitment can be made as well.

OSSNPPH will be following up on this letter by arranging to meet with Dr. Basrur and her staff in the near future.

Sincerely,

Dianne Oickle
Chair, OSNPPH

cc. Honourable Dalton McGinty, Premier
Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion
Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister
Dr. George Pasut, Executive Lead, Public Health System Transformation
Dr. Susan Tamblyn, Co-Chair, Capacity Review Committee
Mr. Brian Hyndman, Co-Chair, Capacity Review Committee
Ms. Connie Uetrecht, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association
Mr. Garry Aslanyan, President, Ontario Public Health Association