



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. W., Suite 310  
Toronto, ON M6A 3B4

July 28, 2008

The Honorable Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion  
The Honorable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Dear Honorable Ministers,

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) commends the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care and Health Promotion on the establishment of a diabetes strategy for Ontario. Investment in this comprehensive plan is pivotal in helping Ontarians prevent and manage diabetes.

Our members, registered dietitians representing all of Ontario's 36 public health units, are experts in population health promotion, with a key focus on disease prevention through the implementation of programs and services that support healthy eating and healthy weights throughout the lifecycle. OSNPPH is pleased that the diabetes plan is inclusive of prevention strategies which we believe to be of critical importance in reversing the trend of the growing incidence of diabetes in Ontario.

While OSNPPH acknowledges the growing need for diabetes management and treatment services, we respectfully suggest that the investment in prevention of less than one percent of the total allocated for this strategy falls short of the need. We recommend greater investment in prevention efforts that will have a significant impact on changing behaviours of the population which will in turn reduce the need for more costly treatment services. Creating environments that better support healthy eating and physical activity, primarily through establishment of healthy public policies, will have the greatest impact on reversing the diabetes epidemic. OSNPPH strongly urges further investment by the provincial government to carry out recommendations presented in Dr. Sheela Basur's report, *Healthy Weights Healthy Lives*.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective and comments.

Sincerely,

Michele Hurd  
Chair, OSNPPH

Copies to:

Roselle Martino, Senior Nutrition Consultant, Public Health Nutrition, Ministry of Health Promotion  
Connie Uetrecht, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association