

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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Dr. Elizabeth Richardson
Medical Officer of Health
City of Hamilton, Public Health Services
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4S6

Dear Dr. Richardson:

Over the past several years, Ontario's care providers and health system partners have worked hard to create meaningful change across the system. There has been significant progress in access to primary care, a greater focus on health promotion, and more supports at home and in the community.

Although there have been many meaningful accomplishments, the Ontario health care system remains characterized by excellent services that are separate in their delivery and funding. This affects access, quality, and consistency of care. We believe that our system needs structural change to improve delivery and sustainability of the services that Ontarians rely on.

The ministry has released *Patients First: A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario*, a discussion paper that outlines proposed changes for the health system. The proposed structural changes would see Local Health Integration Networks assume responsibility for home and community care and system integration, and have greater involvement with primary care, and improved linkages with population health planning. The discussion paper can be found here: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/>.

The ministry looks forward to continuing the dialogue about this proposal in a variety of forums. We are committed to a meaningful engagement process that includes all health system partners, as well as patients. We hope this input will result in a plan that can successfully build a high-performing health system that is more responsive to local needs, is better connected and integrated, drives quality and performance, and enhances transparency for providers and patients, clients and their families.

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Dr. Elizabeth Richardson

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister