

July 5, 2017

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister – Minister's Office
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

On March 31, 2017, many agencies funded as Health Promotion Resource Centres were informed that their funding for the Resource Centre would end as of March 2018. These Resource Centres provide crucial support to our local level work in tobacco, alcohol and nutrition, including access to data, research, and evaluation support.

- The Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation Counselling program (TEACH) provides the high level, in-depth cessation training needed by the frontline staff at health units.
- The Program Training and Consultation Centre (PTCC) provides training, education, and knowledge sharing to ensure our activities are evidence based, new staff are knowledgeable, and current staff stay informed.
- The Ontario Tobacco Research Unit (OTRU) provides the expertise in monitoring and evaluation that is needed to ensure that objectives are realistic and activities are effective.
- The effect that the Youth Advocacy Training Institute (YATI) has had on youth tobacco prevention in Ontario is extremely significant. Their collective experience and knowledge of youth engagement and training is why there are so many passionate youth advocates in tobacco control today!
- The Smoking and Health Action Foundation (SHAF) provides supports for smoke-free housing Ontario and support for tenants and landlords looking to make a positive change in their environment when living in a multi-unit dwelling whether it be an apartment, a condo, rental unit, or supportive housing.
- The Health Promotion Capacity Building-Alcohol Policy Centre (HPCB-AP) addresses alcohol-related harm in communities across Ontario. HPCB-AP supports the development, implementation, assessment, and coordination of alcohol policies across different settings and levels (e.g., schools, colleges, workplaces, municipalities, provinces, etc.).
- The Nutrition Resource Centre (NRC) provides training, education, and knowledge sharing to ensure program and policy development are evidence-based and can be tailored to meet local needs.

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Our local health promotion work is more effective and efficient because of the dedicated and proficient staff at these centres. These Resource Centres support cross-pillar work and have been very useful in collaborative campaigns at the provincial, regional, local, and even federal level.

The substitute of having a Health and Wellness grant available to fill the void left by these Resource Centres is not a viable alternative. Annual competitive grants do not offer the stability needed for any kind of sustainable resources or support. The projects that are supported by the Resource Centres can span several years from planning to evaluation.

I would appreciate it if you could reconsider the decision to eliminate the funding for the Health Promotion Resource Centres, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Anne Warren, Chair
Board of Directors
Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit

AW/hb

cc: Gord Brown, MP Leeds-Grenville
Steve Clark, MPP Leeds-Grenville
Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington
Jack MacLaren, MPP Carleton-Mississippi Mills
Ontario Boards of Health