

Office of the Minister
of Health and the Minister
for the Federal Economic Development
Initiative for Northern Ontario



Cabinet du ministre
de la Santé et Ministre de
l'initiative fédérale du développement
économique dans le Nord de l'Ontario

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Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

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Ms. Barbara Sullivan
Chair
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
806-55 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4V 2Y7

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 15, 2008, addressed to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, concerning the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council's document entitled *Consultation Discussion Guide on Issues Related to the Ministerial Referral on Interprofessional Collaboration among Health Colleges and Professionals*. I note that you have also written to Mr. Morris Rosenberg, Deputy Minister of Health. I regret the delay in responding.

On behalf of Minister Clement, I would like to congratulate the Council for your efforts to develop mechanisms to facilitate and support interprofessional collaboration between health colleges in Ontario. In particular, the bullets on page 26 of the Guide, which describe the context for the questions for discussion, are quite relevant, and should prove very helpful as you further refine your mechanisms.

The Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Patient-Centred Practice Initiative has been one of the three main pillars of Health Canada's Health Human Resource Strategy for the past five years. The Initiative has funded more than 20 learning projects across Canada, for a total of more than \$20 million, to increase the number of health professionals who have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours to practise in interprofessional collaborative teams. The Initiative has also recognized that, in addition to liability issues, legislation and regulation need to be addressed before interprofessional collaborative care can be fully realized.

The Initiative funded two separate projects, both of which were produced by the Conference Board of Canada, to explore these issues further. We are pleased to see a reference in your document to the first report, entitled *Achieving Public Protection*

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Through Collaborative Self-Regulation: Reflection for a New Paradigm. As discussion questions six to eight refer to liability issues, you may wish to consult the second report, entitled *Liability Risks in Interdisciplinary Care: Thinking Outside the Box*, if you have not already done so; that report concludes that liability is not the barrier that health-care professionals believe it to be.

As many of the questions for discussion focus on enhancing scopes of practice and optimizing skills and competencies, you may wish to send this document to employers and workplaces for their feedback, if you have not already done so. Policies related to interprofessional collaboration are developed and implemented in the workplace, so there may be a very good understanding of the relevant challenges and opportunities at this level.

We wish you success in your recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care of Ontario, and we look forward to seeing what mechanisms are implemented in Ontario around this important issue.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. King", with the word "for" written in smaller letters to the left.

William King
Chief of Staff