



**JUN 24 2011**

HLTC2968MC-2011-397

Mr. Thomas Corcoran  
Chair  
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council  
8-55 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto ON M4V 2Y7

Dear Mr. ~~Corcoran~~: *Thomas*

This letter is in follow up to my April 19, 2011 letter of intention to refer two issues to the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) for advice. I also want to take the opportunity to welcome your new Council members to a role that I am sure will be extremely rewarding.

#### *Physician Assistants*

As I indicated previously, Physician Assistants (PAs) are not regulated in Ontario but practise under the supervision of physicians and are only able to perform controlled acts under delegation. In keeping with this government's health quality agenda, I would like you to consider whether this profession ought to be regulated, whether independently or in conjunction with an existing profession, under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) and if so, what would be the appropriate scope of practice, controlled acts and titles authorized to the profession. I would also like you to consider in the formation of your advice, what model of regulation, if any, is most conducive to interprofessional collaboration. In evaluating potential models of regulation, consider what factors would support effective future collaboration between PAs and other health professions in Ontario. I would like this advice no later than August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

#### *Mandatory Revocation Provisions and Treatment of Spouses by Health Care Professionals*

My April 19<sup>th</sup> letter also made reference to the zero tolerance policy toward sexual abuse as set out in the RHPA. The RHPA provisions relating to sexual abuse were designed to encourage the reporting of such abuse and ultimately, to eradicate the sexual abuse of patients by members of the regulated health professions. It is my view that the health regulatory Colleges have done in the past and will continue to do, now and in the future, an exemplary job in monitoring their members, following up on reports and fully investigating and enforcing the law respecting the sexual abuse of patients by members.

Mr. Thomas Corcoran

My request relating to the sexual abuse provisions focuses solely on one issue, as follows. The issue is whether or not, in your view, alternatives to the mandatory revocation provisions should exist in the Act respecting the treatment of a spouse by a regulated health professional.

Your analysis on this single issue should include an evaluation of the risk of harm that alternatives, if any, may pose, and whether such alternatives, if any, best serve the public interest. I would like to receive this advice no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

As mentioned above, I am asking for HPRAC's advice only within the context of treatment provided by a regulated health professional to his or her spouse, and only in relation to the mandatory revocation provisions. A spouse in this context is a person with whom the regulated health professional is married, or with whom the regulated health professional is living in a conjugal relationship outside marriage.

I must emphasize to you that the government's position on zero tolerance for sexual abuse has not changed and I am not requesting advice related to these provisions generally. Consequently, I would ask that you limit your advice and comments only to the issue set out above.

I recognize that these two items will have a significant impact on the workload that has already been referred to HPRAC, however, I am of the view that this workload is manageable and can be conducted without altering the timeframes of my previous referrals to the Council. I am sure that you can appreciate that the previously referred items are also of extreme importance to me and as such, that I would like the work on these items to continue concurrently.

I appreciate the efforts of both you and your Council in ensuring that the timelines are met and look forward to receiving your advice on these two issues next year.

Sincerely,



Deb Matthews  
Minister

c: Presidents and Registrars of the health regulatory Colleges under the "*Regulated Health Professions Act*"