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April 7, 2008

Ms. Barbara Sullivan
Chair
Health Professions Regulatory
Advisory Council
55 St. Clair West
Suite 806 Box 18
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y7

Dear Ms Sullivan:

Thank you for consulting with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on potential mechanisms to facilitate and support interprofesssional collaboration between health regulatory colleges. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) have been working in a coordinated fashion for a number of years to ensure that the needs for health human resources in Ontario are met. A shared organizational structure has been adopted, whereby Dr. Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division, reports to both the deputy ministers of MoHLTC and MTCU on health related matters including interprofessional education. This joint reporting relationship facilitates cross-ministry collaboration and discussion and helps to eliminate organizational and government policies and structures that reinforce silos.

As you are aware, in Ontario, universities and colleges of applied arts and technology are autonomous bodies publicly funded through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). Although MTCU plays a role in program approval and program standards in publicly-funded colleges and universities, it does not develop academic programs.

MTCU also consults with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) when university and college programs leading to the practice of health professions are submitted for program approval.

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Since MTCU plays a limited role in academic programming and has few contacts with the health regulatory colleges, the discussion guide the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) is submitting for consultation purposes does not lend itself well to MTCU's input. For these reasons, we have chosen to provide our feedback by letter.

In 2006-07, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities administered, with funding from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the *Interprofessional Health Education Innovation Fund (IHEIF)* to support the development of interprofessional education projects. Eight projects will be funded for up to three years (2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09) through this fund. Please find attached a list of projects funded through this initiative.

This will facilitate HPRAC's liaison with faculty involved in interprofessional education and training in preparation for interprofessional practice. The significant expertise acquired by these individuals in the promotion of interprofessional health education and practice will be of assistance to you in your survey of needs and facilitation mechanisms.

In 2007-08, an additional interprofessional funding program, the *Interprofessional Care/Education Fund (ICEF)*, was launched. Jointly developed by MTCU and MoHLTC, this fund will provide funding to 22 educational institutions involved in interprofessional projects for up to 15 months spread over two fiscal years (2007-08 and 2008-09). This fund is administered by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities strongly supports HPRAC's initiative to develop a regulatory framework to enable interprofessional practice since such a tool is essential to actualize the working environment which educational institutions have been preparing for through the two above-mentioned funding programs.

Thank you again for giving us an opportunity to respond to these issues.

Sincerely,



Shamira Madhany
Director

Attachment