

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

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**Ministère de la Santé  
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**FEB 25 2009**

**Barbara Sullivan  
Chair  
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council  
8-55 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto ON M4V 2Y7**

Dear Barbara:

The June 28, 2007 letter from my colleague, the Honourable George Smitherman, asked the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) to undertake a review of multiple complex issues, asking for early advice on mechanisms to facilitate and support interprofessional collaboration between health Colleges relating to the development of standards of practice and professional practice guidelines, and regarding a review of the scope of practice for registered nurses in the extended class under the Nursing Act, 1991 before March 31, 2008. I would like to thank the council for the significant amount of work it undertook to meet this deadline.

I also want to express my appreciation for subsequent recommendations regarding the scopes of practice of several additional professions, and recommendations regarding non-physician prescribing. Your comprehensive report on the regulatory framework, which the council has termed "raising the bar" is a very thoughtful piece of work and I and my staff are studying it in detail.

There are several other items outstanding from the June 28<sup>th</sup> letter I wish to elaborate on today and to give further guidance on the timing. I am certain you and council are aware of Ontario's economic outlook and the steps that government is undertaking to be responsible in this economic climate including ensuring that the size of the Ontario public service and direct operating costs are managed. This affects all areas funded by the ministry, including HPRAC.

Further, with its reports, HPRAC has provided the ministry extensive and far-reaching advice which the ministry must undertake significant policy work and study these recommendations within the total health care and delivery system. This will take time, including its implementation. I also recognize that with the timelines for the most recent reports, members of your council and you have given up precious personal, business and family time to answer our request and for this I thank all of you. It is now time to more appropriately pace the work of the council and its work load.

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The health regulatory colleges have been diligent in responding to the consultation and opinion gathering by HPRAC and I know the impact this has had on their resources and business plans. In the coming years, they have an extensive slate of work on a number of regulatory issues, many resulting from earlier legislative amendments and several key government initiatives.

Therefore in recognition of all of the above, I am setting out below my priorities for council and timelines.

I wish the work on the issue of personal support workers to continue as set out in the June 28<sup>th</sup> letter, that is, to provide advice as to whether an association model with a strong commitment to public interest would be appropriate for personal support workers at this time, what steps would be necessary and what supports would be required to facilitate the creation of such an association for this sector. I believe you have this currently scheduled for completion for Sept 2009. I would ask that council change this date and submit this report to me by March 31, 2011.

I understand that the council currently has a schedule for providing advice to me on the other topics as well, Chiroprody/Podiatry, Dental Assistants, Diagnostic Sonography and Paramedics and Emergency Medical Attendants to all be completed on a staggered timeline by March 2010. I would like to direct HPRAC today that these reviews and council work be extended over a broader timeline and I now ask that the reports for these issues be submitted to me by March 31, 2012.

May I also ask that until these issues are completed the Advisory Council not initiate any additional projects within the timeframe set out above. If a public interest issue arises in respect to the regulation of health professionals, and I must ask the Advisory Council to provide advice, I will at the same time review the priorities above and indicate if my priorities and timelines must alter.

I have asked Dr. Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division to meet with you to discuss the implications of my directions on the business plans of HPRAC and ensure a balance of my priorities against the need to manage operating and workforce resources.

Under your leadership, HPRAC has completed an unparalleled amount of work in very short timeframes. I would like again to thank each and every member of the council for their dedication to serving the public, and you, Barbara, for your diligence and devotion to public service and public protection.

Yours sincerely,



David Caplan  
Minister

c. Ron Sapsford, Deputy Minister