

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel 416-327-4300
Fax 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du ministre

10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél 416-327-4300
Télééc 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca



MAR 26 2010

Barbara Sullivan
Chair
Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council
55 St. Clair Ave. West, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y7

Dear Ms Sullivan:

Barbara

It was certainly a pleasure to meet with you and discuss the work and achievements of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC). I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of Council for continuing their work with stakeholders and for your deliberations regarding the complex regulatory issues in eye care. I am looking forward to receiving the Council's advice in March.

In February 2009, my colleague, David Caplan, elaborated on the outstanding items from the original ministerial referral to HPRAC dated June 28, 2007. He provided guidance on the timing in which he wished to receive advice.

Three years have passed since the original referral was made and I have considered what has happened in that time and the factors that David Caplan considered including government resource constraints and the impact that the work of HPRAC has on the resources and business plans of the health regulatory colleges.

I am also aware of the tremendous burden on the health regulatory bodies and ministry staff of implementing the legislative changes that resulted from the HPRAC's two reports *New Directions, 2006* and *Critical Links, 2009*. There remain numerous regulation changes that span a number of pieces of legislation that require development.

I know of the extensive amount of council member time required for each issue referred. I very much appreciate members' dedication to public service and the regulation of health professionals.

I have given this a great deal of thought, and I am writing to amend the issues and timelines in David Caplan's letter of February 25, 2009 as follows.

In regards to personal support workers, in September 2006, HPRAC provided very helpful advice. Your recommendation that personal support workers (PSWs) not be regulated under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) has been followed. Since then both the ministries of Training, Colleges and Universities and Health and Long-Term Care have been actively involved in a range of education, practice and organizational issues related to PSW. Additionally, on further consideration, advising on the creation of a professional association seems beyond the scope of the regulatory related advice HPRAC should be asked to provide. For these reasons, I will not require HPRAC to undertake any additional work related to PSW. Once again I thank you for your previous work in this area that has provided such useful direction.

Advice on the regulation of diagnostic sonographers, dental assistants, and paramedics and emergency medical attendants was requested by March 2012. I am now requesting that this advice be submitted by a later date of December 31, 2013.

Finally with respect to issues relating to chiroprody and podiatry, regulation is currently in place which is effective. I ask that work not begin on this until after the advice on the regulation of the above three professions is submitted.

Please also note, as set out in the *RHPA*, the Advisory Council is not to undertake any reviews or provide advice not requested by the Minister.

I have asked Dr. Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division, to meet with you to determine the appropriate project content and schedule for each issue, balancing achieving the new timelines and the need to manage operating and workforce resources.

Yours truly,



Deb Matthews
Minister

cc: Presidents and Registrars of all Colleges under the RHPA
Presidents of associations representing health professionals regulated under RHPA