

July 16, 2008

The Honourable Mr. David Kaplan  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care  
Hepburn Block, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2C4

**Re: Letter of Welcome to the Ministry and Request for an Introductory Meeting**

Dear Minister Kaplan:

On behalf the Board of Directors of the Ontario Public Health Association I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister of Health and Long Term Care. I would also like to offer our support and assistance as you continue to work towards achieving the goals of the government's health agenda.

Founded in 1949, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) is a voluntary, charitable, non-profit association of individuals and Constituent Associations from various sectors and disciplines that have an interest in improving the health of the people of Ontario. The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. OPHA recognizes that a healthier Ontario requires the government's attention to the broader determinants of health. On this basis, we support the public health focus that is manifest in your government's platform.

OPHA applauds the level of commitment the government has demonstrated in the establishment of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion as an arms length institution under the leadership of Dr. David M.C. Walker, Chair of the Board of Directors and Dr. Vivek Goel, President and Chief Executive Officer. We are confident in the vision that has been established for the Agency and we are committed to supporting the Agency and your Ministry in bridging the gaps in the public health system that were exposed by a series of notable public health crises in the past few years.

To this end, we eagerly anticipate implementation of the Capacity Review Committee's recommendations, particularly those pertaining to the renewal of public health. We also look forward to final approval and rollout of the Public Health Standards and Protocols and to the selection of a Chief Medical Officer of Health—an appointment we regard as urgent.

I would like to take this opportunity to request a meeting with you to discuss how we may work together to achieve further improvements in the health of Ontarians within a sustainable health system. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Carol Timmings,  
President, OPHA