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Constituent Societies

Association of Ontario
Health Centres (AOHC)

Association of Public Health
Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)

Association of Supervisors of
Public Health Inspectors of Ontario
(ASPHIO)

Canadian Institute of Public Health
Inspectors - Ontario Branch (CIPHIO)

Community Health Nurses'
Initiatives Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)

Ontario Association of Public
Health Dentistry (OAPHD)

Ontario Association of Public Health
Nursing Leaders (OAPHNL)

Ontario Dietitians in Public Health
(ODPH)

Ontario Society of Physical Activity
Promoters in Public Health (OSPAPPH)

Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
College Park 5th floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

July 6, 2022

Dear Deputy Premier and Minister Jones,

On behalf of the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) Board of Directors, Constituent Societies and members, I would like to congratulate you on your recent electoral win and appointment as Ontario's Minister of Health and Deputy Premier.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to promote the health of Ontarians. There are many health-related issues that are affecting Ontarians and the community and public health sectors that address them. These include increasing rates of alcohol use, eating disorders, poor mental health, food insecurity, infectious diseases like COVID-19, opioid-related deaths, and health impacts of climate change. Many of these issues disproportionately impact the most vulnerable in our population. OPHA and our members have been working on the frontline and system-wide levels to address many of these issues. Of relevance, we recently released "What We Heart: Report on Public Health Professionals and the COVID-19 Pandemic Response". This report summarizes the experiences of public and community health professionals across Ontario who have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus, important insights for enhancing preparedness and building a resilient public health system. OPHA looks forward to discussing these findings and other needs regarding our public and community health systems.

For over 70 years, OPHA has provided leadership on issues affecting the public's health and strengthened the impact of people who are active in public health and community health. This mission is achieved through capacity building and knowledge mobilization, professional development, helping shape public policy, research and analysis on issues affecting community and public health, coordination of multi-disciplinary networks, and providing expertise to government.

Again, we extend our sincere congratulations and look forward to working with the government on some of the most pressing issues for Ontarians' health and our related health systems.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and/or your staff in the coming weeks. Our Executive Director John Atkinson would be pleased to follow up. He can be reached at jatkinson@opha.on.ca or 647-504-4512. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Demaline".

Lisa Demaline
President, Board of Directors

Copy: Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario
Colleen Geiger, President & CEO (A), Public Health Ontario