

alPHA's members are
the public health units
in Ontario.

alPHA Sections:

Boards of Health
Section

Council of Ontario
Medical Officers of
Health (COMOH)

Affiliate

Organizations:

Association of Ontario
Public Health Business
Administrators

Association of
Public Health
Epidemiologists
in Ontario

Association of
Supervisors of Public
Health Inspectors of
Ontario

Health Promotion
Ontario

Ontario Association of
Public Health Dentistry

Ontario Association of
Public Health Nursing
Leaders

Ontario Society of
Nutrition Professionals
in Public Health

Hon. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

March 4, 2016

Dear Minister Hoskins,

Re. Proposed Expert Panel – LHIN and Public Health Unit Partnerships

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA), I am writing in response to your Patients First Discussion Paper proposal to establish an Expert Panel to advise on deepening and formalizing linkages between LHINs and Public Health Units.

You will already have received our more detailed response to the Patients First paper, which outlines our recommendations for maximizing public health's potential contributions to the envisioned health system while ensuring that its core function of keeping Ontarians healthy is protected and enhanced.

We will not repeat those recommendations here, but as they represent the views of Ontario's public health experts, we anticipate that they will be an important part of any discussion related to the integration of population and public health planning with other health services, including the formalization of linkages between LHINs and Public Health Units.

Given that part of the proposal in the Patients First paper is to establish an Expert Panel to advise on the foregoing as well as opportunities to further improve public health capacity and delivery, we anticipate that some of the most important of these discussions will occur at the Panel table.

At its February 26th 2016 meeting, the alPHA Board of Directors agreed to recommend the consideration of Dr. Valerie Jaeger (medical officer of health for Niagara Region and current alPHA President) as a member of the Expert Panel. We believe that she will be a valuable asset to the Panel, bringing field-level expertise and innovative thinking to the proceedings.

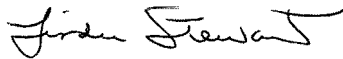
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We appreciate your recognition of population and public health planning as a vital component of transforming Ontario's health care system, and we are eager to lend our expertise to ensure that it is suitably integrated and appropriately utilized, just as we do with our non-health sector partners, including social and community services, boards of education, professional planners and municipalities.

We welcome this opportunity to assist you in strengthening patient-centred health care and enhancing population-based health promotion and protection as complementary parts of a transformed Ontario health system. If you would like to discuss ALPHA's recommendation for the Expert Panel, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition, Dr. Jaeger can be contacted at valerie.jaeger@niagararegion.ca or (905) 688-3762 extension 7366.

Sincerely,



Linda Stewart,
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care
Sharon Lee Smith, Associate Deputy Minister, Policy and Transformation
Nancy Naylor, Associate Deputy Minister, Health System Delivery & Implementation
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division.