

The Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders

Leading the Way for Public Health Nursing

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January 25, 2016

Mr. Thomas Corcoran,
Chair, HPRAC

The Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL) has submitted a paper to HPRAC responding to the questions that had been posed in their consultation request. OPHNL has now had the opportunity to further consult with the Public Health Chief Nursing Officers, members of the OPHNL, in order to be able to endorse one of the 3 models put forward. Please ensure that this letter accompanies the report that was submitted to HPRAC on January 15, 2016 which was prepared by York Region Public Health on behalf of our association.

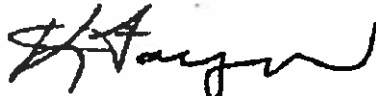
It is our recommendation that the Independent RN Prescribing Model would be best suited for the public health nursing sector in Ontario. This model allows for the role of nurses to be expanded allowing for a broader scope of nursing practice. This is clearly a role that nurses can embrace given their knowledge and skill level. As well, this model will support access to care for many in our most rural and isolated communities. Nurses have taken on nursing role expansion, such as that of the Nurse Practitioner with concise, safe and thorough examination of the nursing practice issues that could arise.

We feel confident that public health nurses must be a part of the dialogue of an Independent RN Prescribing Model and look forward to collaborating with our colleagues in other sectors to ensure the smooth transition forward.

Yours sincerely,



Maureen Cava RN, BScN, MN, President



Kelly Farrugia RN, BScN, MA, CNO, President-Elect