

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Minister

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Ministère de la Santé
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Ontario

NOV 15 2005

Mr. Bill Fisch, Chair
York Region Board of Health
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Fisch:

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how much the McGuinty government appreciates your continuing effort and co-operation in working with my Ministry to protect and promote the health of all Ontarians.

For 2005, I am pleased to inform you that the province is providing the York Region Board of Health with \$21,460,193 for the provision of mandatory public health programs and services in your community.

Our government is committed to working together with our public health partners to rebuild and revitalize Ontario's public health system. To succeed, public health renewal depends on strengthening public health partnerships in communities across Ontario and across the health sector. By developing and enhancing cooperative and collaborative relationships across the province and at all levels of government, we are developing a true public health system.

In June 2004, through Operation Health Protection, our government demonstrated its support to public health by pledging to increase the provincial share of public health funding from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. This represents a significant increase in the investment of provincial funds for public health. For 2005, this means the province will invest a total of \$341 million. By 2007/08, total provincial funding will grow to an estimated \$469 million for local delivery of public health programs and services.

Our commitment to transforming and renewing the public health system is guided by the health needs of Ontarians and by the best use of precious health care resources. This includes improving our accountability for services provided with provincial resources. Therefore, as we fulfill our commitment to move to 75% provincial funding, we will closely evaluate all future funding requests to ensure maximum value for the provincial funds provided.

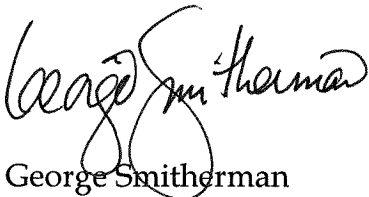
Mr. Bill Fisch

In addition to transforming and renewing the public health system, one of the key priorities of the McGuinty government is healthier Ontarians. It is evident that keeping people healthy is just as important as caring for them when they get sick. That is why Premier McGuinty appointed my colleague the Honourable Jim Watson as Minister of Health Promotion. This is the first time this province has ever had a cabinet portfolio dedicated to promoting healthy living and illness prevention. The best kind of health system seeks to prevent illness in the first place. That is the system we are building in Ontario.

I wish to convey my sincerest appreciation for the contributions that your organization has made for the provision of public health programs and services in your communities, as well as prevention and wellness initiatives. I also want to thank you for your continuing efforts and cooperation in working with our government to improve Ontario's public health system and support public health renewal in the province.

You will shortly be receiving further correspondence from Dr. Sheela V. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, outlining further details of your 2005 funding.

Yours truly,



George Smitherman
Minister

c: Jim Watson, MPP, Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion
Dr. Helena Jaczek, Medical Officer of Health, York Region Health Services Department
Tony C. Wong, MPP (Markham)
Frank Klees, MPP (Oak Ridges)
Mario G. Racco, MPP (Thornhill)
Honourable Greg Sorbara, MPP (Vaughan-King-Aurora)
Julia Munro, MPP (York North)