

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

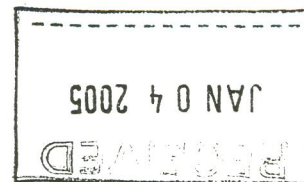
Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel 416-327-4300
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www.health.gov.on.ca

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du ministre

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December 22, 2004

Mr. Shawn Turner, Senior Administrator
York Regional Newmarket Health Centre
194 Eagle Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J6

Dear Mr. Turner:

Our government is working to make Ontario the best place to build a career in nursing. In the 2004 Budget, our government made a commitment to provide long-term care homes and hospitals with \$60M for patient lifting equipment to promote safety for nurses and other care providers. We are now fulfilling that commitment. I am pleased to inform you that the York Regional Newmarket Health Centre has been approved for up to \$70,000.00 for the purchase of patient lifting equipment and \$6,364.00 for lift / transfer education programs.

The Patient Lift Initiative is one component of a larger Nursing Strategy announced earlier this year that is designed to address the core issues affecting nurse recruitment, retention, and supply. The ultimate goal of the strategy is to stabilize the nursing workforce to ensure that more nurses will choose to work in Ontario. Reducing injury through the purchase of lifting equipment is critical to creating safe work environments for nurses and is an essential component of making Ontario an attractive place for nurses to work.

This initiative builds on our commitment to nurses and residents in long-term care homes. In May, we announced investments to support long-term care, including increased standards for patient care and \$191M to hire 2,000 new staff, including 600 nurses.

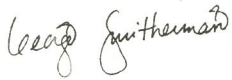
The majority of Ontarians who are receiving care in a health facility are in long-term care. We know that more than 70% of residents in long-term care homes require assistance from one or two staff members to go about their daily lives. As a result of the physical demands of their jobs, the rate of musculoskeletal injuries among health care workers in long-term care homes was twice that of workers in hospitals in 2003.

Our goal is to make sure that residents can live life as fully and as safely as possible and that nurses and other health care workers are supported in assisting them to do so. That is why we are providing 70% of the available funding for patient lifting equipment and education programs to long-term care homes.

In the coming days you will receive further correspondence from the Ministry outlining the details of this new funding and a funding agreement that you will be required to sign in order to receive it.

We are confident that this component of our comprehensive Nursing Strategy will restore the foundations of the nursing profession. By addressing the core issues that impact upon nurses and by acknowledging the value of nursing in providing quality care for Ontarians, we will build a healthcare system that makes Ontario the jurisdiction of choice for nurses.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George Smitherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smitherman".

George Smitherman
Minister

c: Director of Resident Care
cc: Honourable Greg Sorbara, MPP

THE NURSING SECRETARIAT

12th Floor
56 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M5S 2S3

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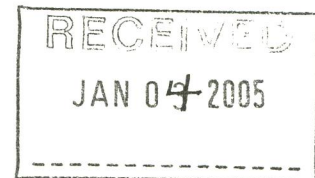
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December 29, 2004

Mr. Shawn Turner, Senior Administrator
York Regional Newmarket Health Centre
194 Eagle Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 1J6



Dear Mr. Turner:

We are writing further to the letter you received from the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated December 22, 2004. This letter advised you of the funding that your organization is eligible to receive for the Workplace Safety (Patient Lift) Initiative. This initiative is a component of the Nursing Strategy and focuses on improving the working conditions of nurses in Ontario. The initiative provides funding for the purchase of lifting/transferring equipment and the implementation of educational programs with a goal of preventing musculoskeletal injuries.

As outlined in the Minister's letter, your organization is eligible in 2004/05 for a special one-time grant of up to \$76,364.00. This amount includes up to \$70,000.00 for the purchase 14 lifts and up to \$6,364.00 to establish and implement a lift/transfer education program.

You may use the funding for the purchase of fixed motor ceiling lifts, portable motor ceiling lifts and portable floor lifts. Calculations for this funding are based on an average cost of \$5,000 per lift and include \$454.00 per lift for the development and implementation of a lift/transfer education program for staff who will be using the equipment.

The eligibility rules and reporting requirements are included in the attached Funding Agreement. Schedule "D" of the Funding Agreement contains a lift assessment survey that you are required to complete and return by January 14, 2005. In order to obtain your special grant for lifting equipment and education please return a signed copy of the Funding Agreement along with the lift assessment survey contained in "Schedule D" to:

Sue Matthews
Provincial Chief Nursing Officer
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
56 Wellesley St. W, 12th Floor

Toronto, ON M5S 2S3

with a copy of both documents to:

Michael Klejman
Regional Director
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
3rd Flr
465 Davis Dr
Newmarket, ON L3Y 8T2

You must return both the signed Funding Agreement and the lift assessment survey no later than January 14th, 2005. The Funding Agreement is non-negotiable and the Ministry will not grant any extensions. .

Please note that if you purchased lifts between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004 the Ministry may reimburse you for your purchases if the Ministry determines (after reviewing your lift assessment survey and the lift purchase invoices you are required to submit with it) that your purchases meet the Ministry program objectives. If the Ministry reimburses you, you will be required, in turn, to reimburse the NPC envelope (referred to in the Service Agreement you entered into with the Ministry) so that you can enhance staffing in nursing and personal care.

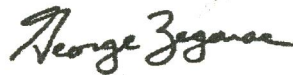
The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care will be announcing this initiative in the New Year. In advance of this announcement we ask that long-term care homes receiving funding not publicly broadcast this funding to the community until this time. This request however does not prevent long-term care homes from beginning their negotiations with vendors for the purchase of lifts, once funding agreements and the requested survey have been signed and forwarded.

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Director.

Sincerely,



Sue Matthews
Provincial Chief Nursing
Officer
The Nursing Secretariat



George Zegarac
Assistant Deputy Minister
Community Health Division

- c. Michael Klejman, Regional Director
Paul Barker, Director (A), Finance & Information Management Branch
Tim Burns, Director, Long-Term Care Homes Branch

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December 22, 2004

Mr. Shawn Turner, Senior Administrator
York Regional Maple Health Centre
10424 Keele Street
MAPLE, ON L6A 2L1

Dear Mr. Turner:

Our government is working to make Ontario the best place to build a career in nursing. In the 2004 Budget, our government made a commitment to provide long-term care homes and hospitals with \$60M for patient lifting equipment to promote safety for nurses and other care providers. We are now fulfilling that commitment. I am pleased to inform you that the York Regional Maple Health Centre has been approved for up to \$55,000.00 for the purchase of patient lifting equipment and \$5,000.00 for lift / transfer education programs.

The Patient Lift Initiative is one component of a larger Nursing Strategy announced earlier this year that is designed to address the core issues affecting nurse recruitment, retention, and supply. The ultimate goal of the strategy is to stabilize the nursing workforce to ensure that more nurses will choose to work in Ontario. Reducing injury through the purchase of lifting equipment is critical to creating safe work environments for nurses and is an essential component of making Ontario an attractive place for nurses to work.

This initiative builds on our commitment to nurses and residents in long-term care homes. In May, we announced investments to support long-term care, including increased standards for patient care and \$191M to hire 2,000 new staff, including 600 nurses.

The majority of Ontarians who are receiving care in a health facility are in long-term care. We know that more than 70% of residents in long-term care homes require assistance from one or two staff members to go about their daily lives. As a result of the physical demands of their jobs, the rate of musculoskeletal injuries among health care workers in long-term care homes was twice that of workers in hospitals in 2003.

Our goal is to make sure that residents can live life as fully and as safely as possible and that nurses and other health care workers are supported in assisting them to do so. That is why we are providing 70% of the available funding for patient lifting equipment and education programs to long-term care homes.

In the coming days you will receive further correspondence from the Ministry outlining the details of this new funding and a funding agreement that you will be required to sign in order to receive it.

We are confident that this component of our comprehensive Nursing Strategy will restore the foundations of the nursing profession. By addressing the core issues that impact upon nurses and by acknowledging the value of nursing in providing quality care for Ontarians, we will build a healthcare system that makes Ontario the jurisdiction of choice for nurses.

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George Smitherman
Minister

c: Director of Resident Care
cc: Julia Munro, MPP

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December 29, 2004

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10424 Keele Street
MAPLE, ON L6A 2L1

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Sincerely,



Sue Matthews
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Assistant Deputy Minister
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