

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
Fax 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca

Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

Bureau du ministre

10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél 416-327-4300
Télé 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca



NOV 24 2004

RECEIVED

DEC 01 2004

HEALTH SERVICES
REGION OF YORK
NEWMARKET

Mr. Bill Fisch
Chair, Board of Health
York Regional Board of Health
17250 Yonge Street, Box 147
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Fisch:

I would like to thank you for your continuing effort and co-operation in working with my Ministry to protect and promote the health of all Ontarians.

The McGuinty government is embarking on a major transformation of the Ontario health care system. The plan for transforming the system is anchored on a clear vision: healthier Ontarians in a healthier Ontario. A fundamental part of this transformation will involve increasing our support for public health services and integrating these services more effectively within the broader health care sector. Our plan includes a major emphasis on healthy living and disease prevention – keeping people healthy now reduces illness down the road. The government's commitment to this ideal is outlined in Operation Health Protection, released on June 22, 2004.

Our decisions about transforming health care are guided by the health needs of Ontarians and by the best use of precious health care resources. The Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care has developed key priorities to help achieve our transformation plan. The following priorities are particularly relevant to public health:

- a revitalized public health system;
- a comprehensive child vaccination program;
- reduced rates of tobacco use
- reduced rates of childhood obesity; and
- a health care system that lives within Ontario's means.

I am pleased to confirm today the government's commitment of \$258.9M for the provincial share of mandatory health programs and services in 2004. This funding commitment is a \$16.1M increase over the previous year and includes a 5% increase for unorganized areas.

Your health unit's share of this funding is \$16,315,135 and is provided pursuant to section 76 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* for the provision of public health programs and services.

.../2

This increased funding commitment will build on other recent government initiatives such as:

- continued 100% funding for 180 FTE positions for infection control;
- implementation of the integrated Public Health Information System to enhance reporting of cases of reportable diseases and the management of outbreaks by health units; and
- the commitment of \$156M over three years for the addition of three new publicly-funded vaccines, and
- Operation Health Protection that included a commitment to move to 75% provincial funding for mandatory health programs and services by 2007, beginning with an increase from 50% to 55% on January 1, 2005.

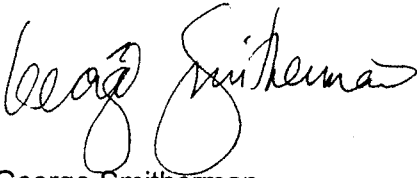
In the near future you will receive further correspondence from the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, outlining the details of your health unit's funding allocation and accountability requirements.

Similar to last year, and consistent with the government's emphasis on accountability for health care resources, you will be required to sign and return the funding Terms and Conditions that will be included with the letter from Dr. Basrur.

Health units are expected to align with our government's priorities, including: enhancing our ability to monitor, prevent, manage and respond to existing and emerging infectious diseases; working with communities and other health care partners to promote healthier lifestyles and activities; reducing tobacco use, especially among our youth; and promoting increased physical activity and reducing the incidence of childhood obesity.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the provision of high quality public health services for the people of Ontario.

Yours truly,



George Smitherman
Minister

cc: Dr. Helena Jaczek, Medical Officer of Health
Tony C. Wong, M.P.P., Markham
Frank Klees, M.P.P., Oak Ridges
Mario G. Racco, M.P.P., Thornhill
Hon. Gregory Sorbara, M.P.P., Vaughan-King-Aurora
Julia Munroe, M.P.P., York North
Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister