

**Ministry of
Health Promotion**

Office of the Minister

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DEC 05 2008

To: Chairs, All Boards of Health

Re: CINOT Expansion

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Government of Ontario is moving forward, as part of its Poverty Reduction Strategy, with an expansion of the Children In Need Of Treatment (CINOT) program to improve oral health among Ontario's low-income families and their children.

Effective January 1, 2009, the CINOT program will provide dental care for children and teens age 17 and under, up from the current maximum eligibility age of 14. This treatment program is designed as an important safety net to ensure that no child goes without essential/emergency dental care as a result of an inability to pay for dental services.

The government recognizes dental care as an important component in overall health. As you know, since January 1, 2006, we have increased CINOT funding two per cent per year, part of our commitment to promoting health for all Ontarians.

The expansion of the CINOT program underscores our government's commitment to the Poverty Reduction Strategy and to dental care services for those who need them most. With an investment of approximately \$28.3 million in the program over the next three years we expect to double the number of children who can access the services.

Starting in 2009, the program will cover emergency treatment for teenagers age 17 and under. We will also be introducing general anaesthetic coverage for children and teens age 17 and under. My staff will be following up with further details to your organization shortly.

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I commend dental and public health professionals across Ontario for their support and for the services they provide. The Ministry of Health Promotion looks forward to working with you to ensure the success of the CINOT program.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the members of your organizations for your significant contributions to oral health and to people in need across the province of Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MRB', is written over a horizontal line that extends across the page.

Margarett R. Best
Minister

- c: Dr. Larry Levin, President, Ontario Dental Association
Ms. Margaret Detlor, President, Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association
Ms. Cathie Mazal-Kuula, President, College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario
Dr. Frank Stechey, President, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
Dr. Dick Ito, President, Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry
Dr. David Williams, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Françoise Bouchard, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health
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