

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Chief Medical Officer of Health and
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Ontario

February 15, 2005

Dr. Helena Jaczek
York Region Health Services Department
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Dr. ^{Helena}Jaczek:

I am pleased to report that a number of provincial government initiatives to revitalize the province's public health system and to protect the health of Ontarians are underway. Many of these initiatives were outlined through our action plan, Operation Health Protection. We have clarified the authority of medical officers of health in recent amendments to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)* Ontario Regulation 569-Reports. We are also transforming the way we collect and manage communicable and reportable disease information by implementing the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) in the Public Health Division and in all public health units.

I am writing to inform you of special one-time funding that has been set aside to assist public health units with the costs associated with implementing iPHIS.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide the York Region Health Services Department with \$34,664.00 in 2005 to assist your local iPHIS implementation activities. This funding is in addition to other funds provided by the ministry and is 100% funding, not tied to the shared funding formula.

This funding can be used as you deem appropriate to cover costs related to the implementation. These may include: new or upgraded desktop computers, staffing costs for new or backfill requirements, travel and training costs, or for laptop or desktop computers for the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS) conversion activities.

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In addition, the iPHIS project has hired resources and acquired hardware and software to help health units with iPHIS implementation activities. The project has hired two rollout teams of six members and a central support team with three Cognos specialists and three communicable disease manager subject matter experts. These teams will work with health units to develop iPHIS readiness plans and to support health units with their transition from RDIS to iPHIS.

The software costs for the iPHIS application and the Cognos ReportNet software are now and will continue to be, paid for by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. To help you plan, I have included the number of Cognos ReportNet licenses that the ministry will provide for York Region Health Services Department:

- Consumer Licenses: 67
- Business Author Licenses: 14
- Professional Author Licenses: 5

As mentioned earlier in this letter, funding for the iPHIS implementation is a one-time allocation. It is expected that public health units will begin to identify costs associated with iPHIS operations and submit them in future operational budget requests. Any additional costs will need to be budgeted for and submitted under the standard cost shared funding formula.

By now you should have received notification of key dates related to the implementation of iPHIS for your health unit.

I realize there is a lot of work ahead of us to implement iPHIS and make the kinds of changes we all want to enhance the capacity of our public health system. I look forward to working with you in the coming months on this exciting project.

Yours truly,



Dr. Sheela Basrur
Chief Medical Officer of Health and
Assistant Deputy Minister

c: Mr. Bill Fisch, Chair, York Region Health Services Department