

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

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**Ministère de la Santé
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Dear Health Care Partner:

As I outlined in my September 9th speech on Ontario's Health Transformation Agenda, the Government of Ontario is underway with a plan to create an integrated health care system that is patient-centred and responsive to local health care needs. Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) are a key element of our plan.

I know you are eager to know more details about LHINs, and tomorrow, October 6, we will release emerging details of our LHIN initiative and will seek your involvement and input.

Instead of a formal event and presentation, we are making use of technology to begin an ongoing exchange with the healthcare community and citizens on how we can implement these networks. This is consistent with the evolutionary development of LHINs in Ontario.

I encourage you to visit the Transforming Health Care section of the Ministry's Web site at www.health.gov.on.ca/transformation. There, you will find the first in a series of regular LHIN Bulletins, which is focused on the LHINs geographic boundaries, the methodology for their selection, and governance. Maps and other relevant information are also available on the site. The Bulletin also poses some important questions to you, our health care partners. I encourage you to share your views and suggestions on these topics with us and help us with the planning work on LHINs that is currently underway.

I thank you in advance for your participation in this important initiative. We look forward to working with you to build the best possible healthcare system for the millions of Ontarians we all serve.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George Smitherman".

George Smitherman
Minister