



Community and Health Services
Office of the Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community and Health Services Committee

FROM: Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner of Community and Health Services
Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: November 9, 2011

RE: **Chief Nursing Officer Initiative in Ontario Health Units**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has announced that it is providing annual 100% funding of up to \$116,699 to each health unit in Ontario for implementation of a Chief Nursing Officer initiative. This funding is intended to support best practice in public health nursing and help health units comply with the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards requirement that boards of health designate a Chief Nursing Officer by January 2013.

As outlined in the accompanying letter from Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the position of Chief Nursing Officer supports practice leadership and quality assurance. A Chief Nursing Officer working group established at the provincial level with representation from nursing and public health organizations has identified the potential roles and responsibilities of a Chief Nursing Officer within a public health context as:

- Nursing practice and quality assurance
- Nursing leadership
- Contributions to organizational effectiveness

Within York Region Public Health, a Chief Nursing Officer position has been in place since 2003. Currently, this position is held by the Director of the Public Health Child and Family Health Division.

In line with provincial direction for health units where a Chief Nursing Officer is already in place, the Public Health Branch intends to use the funding to establish a nursing practice leader position at the management level, to support the Chief Nursing Officer in carrying out a broadened mandate. This position will be included in the budget process for 2012.

Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner
Community and Health Services

Dr. Karim Kurji
Medical Officer of Health

Attachment

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

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AUG 23 2011

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

Dear Mr. Fisch: *Bill*

I am pleased to advise you that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide York Regional Board of Health new base funding of up to \$116,699 to support the implementation of the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) initiative, including the creation of a new position with responsibilities for nursing quality assurance and nursing practice leadership. This investment is part of the 9,000 Nurses Commitment, a key component of the province's health human resources strategy, HealthForceOntario. The funding of up to \$29,175 will be provided this calendar year covering the period from October to December 2011. Funding will be annualized up to \$116,699 in the 2012 funding year.

The establishment of CNOs in public health units will enhance public health nursing practice, professional development, and quality assurance for public health programs and services delivered by public health nurses. Public Health CNOs will provide public health nursing leadership and oversee practice development activities to strengthen the public health nursing workforce which in turn, will contribute to positive health outcomes for individuals, groups and populations in communities across Ontario.

Where a CNO is already in place, health units will be able to use these new funds to support a Nursing Practice Leader position.

Roselle Martino, Executive Director (A), Public Health Division will write to Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, York Region, Public Health Branch, Community & Health Services Department shortly concerning the terms and conditions governing this funding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued commitment and dedication to protecting and promoting the health of Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Deb Matthews
Minister

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c: Hon. Michael Chan, MPP, Markham--Unionville
Frank Klees, MPP, Newmarket-Aurora
Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP, Oak Ridges-Markham
Reza Moridi, MPP, Richmond Hill
Peter Shurman, MPP, Thornhill
Greg Sorbara, MPP, Vaughan
Julia Munro, MPP, York-Simcoe
Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, York Region, Public Health Branch,
Community & Health Services Department
Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Roselle Martino, Executive Director (A), Public Health Division