

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

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

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JUL 08 2004

Mr. Bill Fisch
Chair
Regional Municipality of York Newmarket Health Centre
194 Eagle Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 1J6

Dear Mr. Fisch:

I would like to thank you for your continuing effort and co-operation in working with my Ministry to support Ontario's health care system.

The McGuinty government is embarking upon a major transformation of the Ontario health care system.

Our plan involves all health care providers in Ontario working together as partners to make our system more accessible, accountable and sustainable for future generations.

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 putting resources and care in the community to relieve pressure on hospitals and improve health outcomes. Our plan also involves a major emphasis on healthy living and illness prevention to keep people well in the first place. A strong community sector is essential to delivering effective preventative health care.

To achieve our transformation plan, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed key priorities that we will be measured against, including

- reduced wait times for important procedures;
- improved access to family physicians and other members of the primary health care team through the creation of 150 Family Health Teams;
- enhanced long-term care and home care;
- accessible community-based mental health;
- a revitalized public health system;
- a comprehensive child vaccination program;
- reduced rates of tobacco use and childhood obesity; and
- a health care system that lives within Ontario's means.

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Mr. Fisch

Our government believes in a health care system that provides the highest quality of care, when people need care, as close to home as possible.

Our decisions about transforming health care in Ontario are guided by the health needs of Ontarians and the best use of precious health care dollars.

And in keeping with our goal of an accountable health care system, we will ensure that all providers have access to information regarding this year's allocation across the entire system.

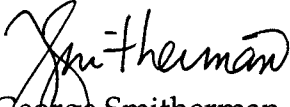
I am pleased to confirm the government's commitment of \$417M to community support services and supportive housing programs for the fiscal year 2004/05. This represents an increase of 4.1% over last year. Your share in this includes \$197,648 in new base funding and \$20,000 in one time funding.

This new funding will help stabilize the community support service and supportive housing sectors. In addition, new community support services funding will serve up to 8,000 new clients in 2004/05. It will increase the capacity of the sector to support seniors, frail elderly and persons with physical disabilities in the community. It will assist them to remain living independently with increased quality of life, for themselves and for their families and caregivers.

In the coming weeks, you will receive further correspondence from the Ministry outlining the details of this new funding, and accountability requirements concerning your allocation.

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

Yours truly,


George Smitherman
Minister

c: Julia Munro, MPP, York North
Shawn Turner, Administator/Director of Long Term Care, Regional Municipality of
York Newmarket Health Centre