

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

Health Human Resources
Strategy Division

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

Division de la stratégie des ressources
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To whom it may concern

I am writing to share with you an overview of the Ontario Diabetes Strategy (ODS) and highlight some of the partnerships we are establishing for advice and guidance.

The strategy aims to improve the health and health care of Ontarians with diabetes and meet the needs of those who are at high risk for developing diabetes. The strategy will do this by:

- Increasing the adoption of approved practice guidelines and evidence-based care;
- Supporting patients in self-management;
- Educating the public, especially those at high risk, about diabetes and prevention strategies;
- Continual improvement in local and LHIN level coordination; and
- Identifying and addressing care gaps, setting clinical performance targets, enhancing accountability and monitoring performance.

As the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (the Ministry) continues to develop and execute this important government priority, it has been supported by experts in the field, and has engaged groups of advisors to ensure that the strategy is coordinated and comprehensive.

From the outset, we have relied on the support of a provincial Diabetes Expert panel, established by the government to provide the ministry with advice from a clinical and provider perspective. Dr. Catherine Zahn, Executive Vice President Clinical Programs and Practice, University Health Network, has served as Chair of this panel and has been working closely with the Ministry's ODS implementation team.

The Ministry's ODS implementation team has also been meeting with the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) on the implementation plan of the ODS and will ensure that the CDA is a partner in developing and delivering evidence based care.

The Ministry of Health Promotion has developed awareness and prevention initiatives to support the ODS, working with public health units and others to improve understanding of diabetes and its risk factors and to directly influence individual behaviours.

Cancer Care Ontario has been advising the ODS on infrastructure coordination. Their experience with regional care coordination and the integration of primary and specialist care has been invaluable in guiding the ongoing implementation of the Strategy.

As provincial lead on the ODS in the ministry, I can assure you that the government is committed to working with the diabetes community and all health system partners involved with diabetes to improve care for patients. We are committed to keeping you informed and gaining your input as we move forward with the Provincial Diabetes Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tepper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Joshua Tepper
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Human Resources Strategy Division

- c. Jean Lam, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Promotion Programs, Ministry of Health Promotion
- Ken Deane, Assistant Deputy Minister, HSAPD, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care
- Dr. Catherine Zahn, Vice President, University Health Network
- Terry Sullivan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Care Ontario
- Ellen Malcomson, Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Diabetes Association
- Margaret Beatty, Vice President, Canadian Diabetes Association