

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Ontario

MAY 09 2013

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Ms. Chantal L. Lalonde and Ms. Jackie Leroux
chalone@eohu.ca

Chantal *Jackie*
Dear ~~Ms. Lalonde~~ and ~~Ms. Leroux~~:

Thank you for your email and enclosed letter on behalf of the Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health (OSPAPPH) sharing your support for the Healthy Kids Panel's report *No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy*.

I'm both grateful and encouraged to have health care partners, like OSPAPPH who have as deep a concern as we do about healthy weights and a commitment to working to improve the health of the people of Ontario. I've noted your particular comments about encouraging children and youth to increase physical activity.

Our government understands that leading healthy lives benefits both Ontarians' well-being and the health care system as a whole. One of our top priorities identified in Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care is "Keeping Ontarians Healthy". I want Ontario to be the healthiest place to grow up and grow old and the recommendations contained in the Healthy Kids Panel's report will guide us on how best to achieve the goal of helping our children lead healthier lives.

I appreciate the perspective that OSPAPPH can provide to us as we move forward on implementing the panel's recommendations. We will be considering all of the panel's recommendations and appreciate any feedback from the people of Ontario, including any and all stakeholders, on this report and possible implementation.

As a first step, I've set up an inter-ministerial working group, which I will co-chair with my colleague, the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services, to direct our government's action on implementing the recommendations of the panel.

I look forward to working with all our health care partners, including OSPAPPH, as we continue this important work in the months and years ahead.

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Ms. Chantal L. Lalonde and Miss Jackie Leroux

Again, thank you for taking the time to write about this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deb Matthews
Minister