

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

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**Ministère de la Santé
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JUN 14 2016

HLTC2966MC-2016-5469

Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health
C/o Chris Sherman
Chatham Kent Public Health Unit
435 Grand Avenue West
P.O Box 1136 Chatham ON N7M 5L8

Dear Mr. Sherman and Ms. Bochsler:

Re: Modernization of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)

On behalf of the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I would like to thank you for your letter, dated May 20, 2016, which provides inputs for the ongoing Standards Modernization process. We appreciate the work of the Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health to promote physical activity as a public health priority in Ontario.

The Standards Modernization process aligns with government's strategic vision and priorities for public health within a transformed health system and is being guided by a number of key drivers for change, including a need to improve efficiency, strengthen accountability and transparency, and address service gaps in key priority areas. This extensive process will reassess all program standards including the Family Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Program Standards, which specifically reference physical activity promotion.

The Standards Modernization process has adopted a committee approach. An Executive Steering Committee provides strategic leadership and oversight to various sub-committees including the Practice and Evidence Program Standards Advisory Committee (PEPSAC). The purpose of PEPSAC is to provide recommendations for potential changes to the current standards based on an examination of the existing literature and jurisdictional scans on related topic areas including physical activity promotion. The new standards will reflect current accepted practices in core public health functions.

The ministry continues to be committed to a quality public health work force. One of the objectives of the current Standards Modernization process is to identify the capacity needed to deliver public health services in response to the revised standards. Your input will be shared with the relevant committees to ensure that consideration of the proposed content-specific changes as well as the capacity implications are examined as part of the review process.

The Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care outlines the ministry's commitment to make the health care system more transparent, efficient, and sustainable. The Standards Modernization process is in line with this commitment and continues to benefit from the thoughtful input of important stakeholders, such as yourselves.

Once again, we appreciate your response and look forward to your continued support throughout the Standards Modernization process.

Sincerely,



Roselle Martino
Assistant Deputy Minister
Population and Public Health Division

c: Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister
Dr. David C. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health