

November 7, 2012

**Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor, 80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4**

Dear Minister,

Re: Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy

First, let me congratulate you and the Government of Ontario on the creation and early implementation of a comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy for Ontario, even ahead of the delivery of the Canadian Mental Health Strategy. You may recall the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario's interest in this subject from the Resolution we adopted last year and which I attach for your reference.

I would now like to ask you to update the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario on the implementation of the provincial strategy. I know you, with the Advisory Council, will be reporting back to the public in another year – but our Provincial Council is very interested in learning what steps, as indicated on page 25 of the Ontario Strategy, have been taken and what has actually been implemented.

In particular, could you advise:

1. a. What has happened at the Deputy Minister Social Policy Committee?
- b. Is it possible to obtain the minutes of the Social Policy Committee for this item over the past year?
- c. What performance measures and accountabilities have been put in place in this area of cross cutting responsibilities?
2. a. Who has been appointed to the Mental Health and

Addictions Advisory Council and how does one find out about its work plan and budget?

b. Is the Council a continuation of the 2008 Group or something different?

c. What kinds of governance options are being looked at between the government and the Advisory Council?

3. Who is on the task force to examine the legislation relating to involuntary treatment and the sharing of health information and what work has been undertaken so far?

4. While respecting the emphasis that is being put on children in the early years of the Strategy, what efforts and initiatives are moving forward in other parts of the Strategy and what funding will accompany them?

5. a. What impact will the newly released Canadian Mental Health Strategy have on Ontario's Strategy?

b. How do you see learning among provinces being organized and federal-provincial-territorial co-operation more generally evolving in this area?

6. a. Given the mental health needs in the province, will you be adopting the recommendation in the Canadian Strategy to "increase the proportion of health spending that is devoted to mental health from seven to nine per cent over 10 years."?

b. And will you similarly be adopting the recommendation in the Strategy to increase the proportion of social spending that is devoted to mental health by two percentage points from current levels?

The Provincial Council of Women of Ontario looks forward with anticipation to your response. Good mental health, its promotion and prevention of mental breakdowns is the priority program of our national leadership over the coming two years.

The Provincial Council of Women of Ontario was established in 1923 as an affiliate of the National Council of women of Canada. The aim of the Council is to work for the betterment of conditions

pertaining to family, community and society. PCWO is composed of 5 Local Councils, 11 Provincially Organized Societies, 1 Study Group and 2 Individual Members.

Yours sincerely,
Mary Potter, President

(Written by the Health Committee of Ottawa Council of Women)