



TORONTO DISTRICT  
HEALTH COUNCIL  
LE CONSEIL RÉGIONAL  
DE SANTÉ DE TORONTO

*...Effecting system-wide improvements in health*

*...Améliorer l'ensemble du système de santé*

January 17, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Late in 2004 the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, announced his intention to create 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) in Ontario. These LHINs are to be responsible for the planning, funding and administering of health care programs and services across Ontario beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

Today, the Minister of Health informed the Chairs of Ontario's District Health Councils that DHCs will cease operations as of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2005. We wanted to ensure that we communicated this news to our stakeholders in a timely manner.

In making this announcement, the Minister emphasized the important contribution that the Toronto District Health Council and Ontario's DHCs have made to improving the availability and delivery of health care services to Ontario residents. He acknowledged the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by all DHC staff and board members over the years, and their hard work to improve Ontario's health care system. The Minister noted that the new LHIN structures will bear sole accountability for local planning and funding issues.

We at the Toronto District Health Council are proud of the 25 years of health system planning leadership provided by our volunteer board members, committee and working groups members, and of course our staff. It has been a privilege to work with our many partners in planning across the range of organizations and sectors and consumer groups toward improving health in our community.

We will be communicating with you again over the next two months, as we plan for the continuity of health system planning in Toronto and the new LHIN areas. We thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Mimi Lowi-Young  
Chair