

December 6, 2006

TO: All Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Stakeholders
All Ministry of Health Promotion Stakeholders

FROM: Ron Sapsford
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Marg Rappolt
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion

We are writing to let you know that Dr. Sheela Basrur stepped down yesterday as the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, due to health concerns.

We very much regret this news and know that it will be received with great sadness within the province's health care community.

Dr. George Pasut, currently the Public Health Division's Executive Lead, Public Health System Transformation, will be the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, continuing to report to both Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, and Health Promotion. Ruth Hawkins, Executive Lead for the Public Health Division, will be Acting Assistant Deputy Minister. A search for a permanent replacement for the Chief Medical Officer of Health will begin shortly.

Dr. Basrur was appointed to this role in February, 2004 and since that time has been instrumental in developing highly effective public health programs and services that promote and protect the health of the people of Ontario. From the launch of Operation Health Protection, an action plan to revitalize the province's public health system, to the development of the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy, under her leadership and expertise the government has made outstanding progress.

We know you will join us in wishing Dr. Basrur well in her return to good health.

A statement from Dr. Basrur can be viewed on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web site at www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/updates_mn.html

Original signed

Ron Sapsford

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Marg Rappolt