

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

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

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March 24, 2005

Dear Health Care Partner:

I am writing to thank each of you who volunteered your time and energy to prepare your LHIN community's Integration Priority Report. Your hard work and commitment are very much appreciated, and the reports you and your community partners helped generate will be a valuable tool to inform the planning work of the LHIN CEOs and boards of directors.

When I announced details of the LHINs initiative in September, 2004, I challenged the health-care community to rise above the day-to-day demands of health care and to envision a hopeful future for the system. I called on the health care community to work together to develop the solutions. By volunteering your time, expertise and knowledge, you have risen to that challenge.

By enthusiastically embracing the ministry's call to work together with the public and the broader health-care community in your area to identify integration opportunities, you have been an integral part of the important process leading to an improved, integrated health care system. Your participation in the LHIN Community Workshops and subsequent activities has helped create new and strong relationships within your community.

As we are moving forward with this key initiative, I am delighted and encouraged by the immediate and enthusiastic response to my ministry's requests for input. The ministry received close to 500 written submissions following our request for feedback in the October, 2004 LHINs Bulletin. Almost 4,000 people registered to attend our series of workshops last fall, and close to 300 self-selected volunteers committed to guide the work of their communities following the workshops.

With formal responsibility for community engagement activities soon to reside within the LHINs, it is important that you continue to participate in building relationships and building awareness of LHINs within your community and your LHIN. We encourage you to continue to play a role and contribute in this process.

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Again, let me express my sincere appreciation to you for your contribution. Together, we are creating a true system of health care in Ontario.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Smitherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop for the letter 'G'.

George Smitherman  
Minister