

ONTARIO HEALTH QUALITY COUNCIL

The establishment of the Ontario Health Quality Council is part of the *Commitment to the Future of Medicare Act, 2004*, which received Royal Assent on June 17, 2004.

As set out in the act, the council will monitor and report to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services and related health human resources, consumer population health status, and health system outcomes. In this way, it will support continuous quality improvement.

The council's annual reporting is designed to:

- encourage and promote an integrated, consumer-centred health system
- track performance of the Ontario health system
- help Ontarians to better understand and benefit from their health system by making it more transparent and accountable.

The council will report annually to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, who will in turn, share the council's reports with the Ontario legislature and the public.

Last March, Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman announced that the government was looking for people to become members of the council.

Those eligible to be members included:

- Experts in the health system in the areas of patient and consumer issues and health service provision; and/or
- Experts in the areas of governance, accountability and public finance; and/or
- Persons from the community with a demonstrated interest or experience in health services.

One Ontario member of the Health Council of Canada, Lyn McLeod, has also been cross-appointed to the Ontario Health Quality Council.

Members of boards, CEOs, and officers of other health system organizations aren't allowed to serve on the council. Council members will receive per diem compensation for attending council meetings and related work, as well as travel and accommodation expenses as required. They will be expected to serve for two or three years, depending on the term of appointment.