

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

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**Ministère de la Santé
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Re: Drug System Renewal Forum Status Update Notice

Dear Stakeholders:

I am writing to provide you with a status update regarding the consultation process that has taken place since the late summer of 2009.

As many of you are aware, on July 10, 2009, a Drug System Renewal Forum initiated discussions with stakeholders in a review of Ontario's drug system. At that time, "The Case for Change" and the process for stakeholders to provide input to the proposed reforms was outlined. Following the Drug System Renewal Forum, the Government launched consultations through five stakeholder working tables and two multi-stakeholder discussion groups.

I want to thank you for your participation in the consultations and the comments that you have submitted to the ministry. Over the past several months, there has been a high level of participation, input and discussion between the Government and stakeholder groups. We are reviewing the input from all stakeholders and are taking the recommendations into consideration. I appreciate the importance of the issues that you have raised in your submissions and in the discussions.

The next phase of our consultation process is a bilateral discussion with the pharmacy sector. These meetings will take place over the next several weeks.

We intend to provide you with further communication once these meetings have concluded. We look forward to the opportunity to continue our dialogue with you and to address the challenges of a funding model that maximizes patient access to pharmaceutical products while contributing to system sustainability.

Sincerely,

(original copy signed)

Deb Matthews
Minister