

**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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«First Name» «LastName»  
Chair, «LHIN Name»  
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Dear «First Name» «LastName»:

I am proud of the tremendous progress of our government's Local Health Integration Networks and I want to thank you for your commitment and hard work which has contributed significantly to that progress. As you know, the Local Health System Integration Act requires you to develop an Integrated Health Service Plan (IHSP). In our 2006/07 Accountability Agreement, I committed to provide to you, by the end of this month, our government's draft Strategic Directions for Ontario's healthcare system to be used in the development of your IHSP. I am pleased to provide you with them at this time.

As you know our government is in the process of developing a 10-Year Health System Strategic Plan to be made public next spring. The draft Strategic Directions will help to ensure that your IHSP contributes to the achievement of provincial system goals; reflects, advances and enables transformation priorities; and reaffirms the principles underlying LHINs. These directions will allow you to anticipate the goals that will inform the Strategic Plan.

As previously communicated, your IHSP should contain a 3-year vision for your local health system, but focus on 1-2 year deliverables. These deliverables will reflect local priorities identified through the community engagement process, existing local obligations, goals and commitments, and our draft Strategic Directions.

The draft Strategic Directions build on the Roadmap to the IHSP provided in January of this year and will help you shape your IHSP. These Directions may be refreshed annually as needed, to reflect local and provincial changes in priorities, including any which arise through the Strategic Plan development process.

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As you will see from the enclosed document, our draft Strategic Directions are anchored in our vision of a healthcare system that helps people stay healthy, delivers good care when they need it, and will be there for their children and grandchildren.

The draft Strategic Directions focus on five areas: renewing community engagement and partnerships concerning health care; improving the health status of Ontarians; ensuring equitable access to health care; improving the quality of health outcomes; and establishing a framework for a sustainable health system. The enclosed document provides greater detail and specification.

I am also providing you with some information regarding the process to develop the Strategic Plan. Your LHIN, in partnership with the thirteen others, will be engaged at several points in the development of the Strategic Plan. Your expertise and the information you have gained through your community engagements will be important contributions.

It is with enthusiasm and confidence that I look forward to our continued collaboration in building a sustainable healthcare system that can meet the needs of Ontarians now and into the future.

Yours truly,

George Smitherman  
Minister

## Strategic Directions

### MOHLTC Vision:

“A health care system that helps people stay healthy, delivers good care when they need it, and will be there for their children and grandchildren.”

### Strategic Directions:

1. Renewed Community Engagement and Partnership
2. Health Status
3. Access & Equity
4. Quality
5. Sustainability

#### 1. *Renewed community engagement and partnerships in and about the health care system*

- Effective governance structures and processes
- Community awareness and engagement are core elements/processes in local health system planning
- Partnerships with other participants in the local health care system including public health and primary care groups
- Active participation in local community planning processes

#### 2. **Improve the *health status* of Ontarians**

- Improved health of all Ontarians, especially groups with the poorest health status
- Enhanced uptake of provincial disease screening programs

#### 3. **Ontarians will have *equitable access* to the care and services they need no matter where they live or their socio/cultural/economic status**

- Reduced wait times for key services
- Reduced barriers to access
- More effective health human resource planning and management
- Appropriate supports to enable Ontarians to age in the most appropriate place

#### **4. Improve the *quality* of health outcomes**

- The consumer is at the centre of the planning and co-ordination of health services and chronic disease management
- Leadership and participation in continuous quality improvement of the health system
- Improved integration and coordination of health services and facilities related to prevention, promotion, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care that is based on the population's need
- Improved safety and effectiveness of health services

#### **5. Establish a framework for *sustainability* of the health care system that achieves the best results for consumers and the community**

- Equitable allocation of health resources according to the health needs of the population including disease management.
- Optimized use of available resources to deliver health care
- Planning and decision making is based on evidence, analysis of need and value of investment
- Efficient service delivery
- Increased use of appropriate care settings
- The local health system is moving toward an electronic health information system
- Financial stability