

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

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Ms. Carmen McGregor
President
Association of Local Public Health Agencies
1306 – 2 Carlton Street
Toronto ON M5B 1J3

Dear Ms. McGregor:

Thank you for your interest in the report of the Minister's Expert Panel on Public Health. I regret that my schedule does not permit me to meet with you. However, I would like to respond to your concerns.

First, I would like to assure you that we have not made any decisions about the recommendations outlined in the panel's report. The report captures the independent views and recommendations of the expert panel, and my ministry is currently reviewing the panel's advice and the feedback we have received from stakeholders. We will carefully consider all input prior to making any decisions.

We established the Expert Panel on Public Health in January 2017 to strengthen and increase the integration of the public health sector within the rest of the health care system. The panel was asked to provide advice on structural, organizational and governance changes for public health to support greater integration with other health system partners.

The expert panel's report recommends strengthening public health's relationships with primary care, community care and other partners, so that all health care services are more responsive to community needs. It states that stronger relationships between public health and other partners will make it easier to integrate health protection and promotion into all health care services. The recommendations also focus on preserving the independent public health voice and core public health functions.

I appreciate your interest, and I will keep your concerns in mind as we work to strengthen the public health sector and improve public health capacity and delivery in Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister