July 4, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Minister and Minister of Health
Hepburn Block 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Dear Minister Elliott:

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit Board of Health is very pleased with the provincial government’s decision to support a dental program for low income seniors, and the decision to entrust local public health units with the responsibility to implement the program within each of their communities.

Our Health Unit has worked very closely with the region’s three Community Health Centres on oral health programs starting with the provincial Healthy Smiles Program so we are well set up to implement the program effectively and efficiently.

Oral health has a major impact on overall health with its link to chronic disease as well as quality of life. If people are not able to get dental care for acute problems they turn to the health care system including the Emergency Department. This investment in dental care will also impact the ministry’s priority to decrease hallway medicine.

Thank you for investing in the health of seniors in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark.

Sincerely,

Doug Malanka
Board Chair

DM/ hb

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Hon. Steve Clark, MPP Leeds, Grenville/Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Randy Hillier, MPP Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston
Ontario Boards of Health