



Community-centred primary health care

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OCSA  
Ontario Community  
Support Association  
United in our commitment to care



Ontario Federation of Community  
Mental Health and Addiction Programs

*Sharing Resources, Exploring Common Issues*

## To the Members of the Ontario Legislature

9 March 2009

### Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund Needed to Bring Services Closer to Ontarians

We three associations, the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC), the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA) and the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs (OFCMHAP) recently corresponded with you about the need to establish a **Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund (CHSSIF)**. The **CHSSIF** is a response to the economic challenges facing Ontario. This critical initiative presents an unprecedented and historic opportunity to bolster Ontario's future community health and social services' infrastructure at a time of growing demand, while at the same time creating jobs for workers in small and mid-sized construction and related companies, stimulating the economy in rural and urban communities throughout Ontario.

Attached to this letter is a **proposal for the Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund** which provides details of the fund and examples of projects that would benefit from this infrastructure funding.

To make this happen we need your help. We ask that you make this fund a provincial priority. The Ontario 2009 Budget offers a timely opportunity for Ontario to launch a Community Health & Social Services Infrastructure Fund and get Ontarians back to work now and at the same time support many other provincial priorities including the integration of health care services and the need to address poverty and settlement issues. But it can only do that if community health projects are eligible for the infrastructure funds.

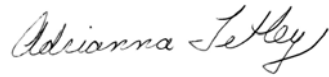
Under the sponsorship of a Community Health Centre, a Community Support Service Agency or a Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs provider, we envision under one roof: community health centres, supportive housing, community support services for seniors and persons with disabilities, community mental health and addiction services, wellness centres, refugee and immigrant services, Aboriginal Health Access Centres, co-located with government agencies. Not only will this better meet the needs of many Ontarians, especially those facing barriers to accessing service, it also advances the development of community partnerships and the reduction of overhead costs for local service providers.

We ask for your support for this initiative. We also ask that you talk about this initiative with your parliamentary colleagues and, particularly, with Minister Smitherman, Minister Caplan and Premier McGuinty.

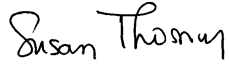
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This fund will get Ontarians back to work now. Its legacy will be the foundation for strong, collaborative multi-sectoral initiatives that, for years to come, will serve the needs of communities across the province.

Sincerely,



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