



Ontario Federation of Community  
Mental Health and Addiction Programs

*Sharing Resources. Exploring Common Issues*

November 7, 2011

### **Important Message to our Memberships**

We are writing to share some very exciting news with both of our Memberships regarding recent developments between the leadership of our Associations that will shape the future for all of us.

The Board of Directors for Addictions Ontario and the Board of the Ontario Federation of Community Mental Health and Addiction Programs have each selected four (4) representatives from among their elected Directors and Officers to form a special joint Task Force. This Task Force will undertake a process with an aim toward combining the resources, expertise and advocacy agendas of both our Associations into a whole new entity; one that is capable of delivering enhanced benefits to Members, expanding the scope of our community-of-practice, and elevating our level of influence with political decision-makers.

In a recent era that has been characterized by uncertainty and instability for our Members, we recognize that the collaboration between our two Associations has strengthened our ability to produce meaningful outcomes. We need to build on the successes we've shared in the past so that we may secure our role in *shaping* the future of Ontario's healthcare system. Our combined Memberships represent the largest investment of public spending on mental health and addictions in the province; providing an incredible position of strength from which to negotiate meaningful outcomes that preserve our shared interests. United we can better achieve the respect for both our clients and treatment professionals, to which our Members Agencies aspire, individually and collectively.

We call upon our Associations to support a united mandate and welcome your feedback as we engage in this process. We will be sure to provide updated communications to keep you apprised of our progress. This is a time of optimism and renewed enthusiasm for all of us!

Yours in Service,

Jon Thompson, President  
Ontario Federation of Community  
Mental Health and Addiction Programs

Deborah Gatenby, President  
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