



Catholic Health
Sponsors of Ontario

Société catholique
ontarienne de la santé

February 24, 2016

Dr. Robert Bell
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
11th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

Dear Dr. Bell,

Catholic Health Sponsors of Ontario (CHSO) is pleased to review *Patients First – A Proposal to Strengthen Patient-Centred Health Care in Ontario*. Congratulations to you and your team for creating a plan that puts patients first with a goal to improve the care experience across the full continuum.

Catholic health care is already part of Ontario's high quality, integrated health system and provides programs and services to people of all cultures, faith traditions, and circumstances. In recent years, Catholic health care has moved to create centres of excellence and provide leadership in areas including mental health and addictions, palliative care, and care for the elderly.

Some of the most vulnerable populations in Ontario are not always well served by today's health care system. The Catholic health care tradition is to respond to those most in need in local communities.

Our history is to embrace new mandates and our 21 member organizations have told us they want to be part of the solution. As the importance of the social determinants of health is recognized, our organizations are seeing housing emerge as one of the greatest needs across the province.

We often reference your challenge to Catholic health care to get beyond the boundaries of its traditional institutional roots, respond to local need, and provide a wider array of community-based programming. CHSO's direct accountability is to the Holy See (Vatican) and Pope Francis has similarly challenged us to become more community focused and responsive.

Local Health Integration Networks are moving to achieve greater alignment and integration of health services in their communities. In a recent meeting with LHIN CEOs, CHSO indicated a willingness for LHINs to lean on Catholic health care to provide leadership as new networks of care are formed. For example, as home care coordinators are deployed into community settings, Catholic health care is well placed to play a leadership and coordinating role in multiple settings crossing the continuum of care.

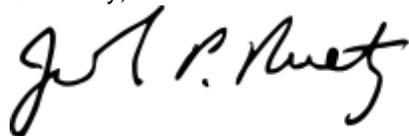
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With a tool called *Signals of Organizational Performance*, we have built in accountability mechanisms heavily modeled on the LHIN continuum of interventions, designed to increase transparency and focus on quality. These sponsorship mechanisms can easily be adapted for network use and have application to all organizations, faith-based or not.

The release of "Patients First" offers a fresh perspective on the transformation of health care in the Province of Ontario. It would be our pleasure to continue the conversation we started with you a few months ago, when you addressed the Board Chairs and CEOs of our member organizations. Catholic health care wants to be part of the generative dialogue as the province moves in exciting new directions.

Please call or email to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Ruetz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent part.

John Ruetz
President & CEO

Copy: Glen Wood, CHSO Board Chair

