



PROFILE

For 20 years, the not-for-profit Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association has represented non-physician and physician independent health facilities (IHF) in Ontario.

Independent health facilities are an integral part of Ontario's publicly funded health care system and have existed throughout the province for more than 40 years. There are approximately 1000 community-based, physician and non-physician, diagnostic facilities licensed under the *Independent Health Facilities Act* by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC). IHFs provide approximately 60 per cent of diagnostic services, including mammography, X-ray, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, ambulatory surgical care, sleep studies, eye care and pulmonary function services. More than 5 million diagnostic procedures are performed at IHFs on residents of Ontario annually and are particularly important in areas where health care needs are under-served. The community-based nature of independent health facilities, licensed and regularly assessed by the Ministry to provide specific services within a defined area, offers the public coordinated, timely access to diagnostic services within their communities. This results in reduced wait times.

Having been a member of the MOHLTC's IHF Advisory Group, the Consultation Forum of the Ontario Health Quality Council, and the former Local Health Integration Network Action Group, among other consultative bodies, the IDCA brings nearly 20 years of experience in planning and providing community-based diagnostic care. The IDCA is supportive of the Ontario Government's commitment to improve the health of Ontarians through better access to quality health care services throughout the province. As health care providers, IHFs are aware of the needs for coordination of high-quality, efficient and effective diagnostic services throughout Ontario. IDCA regularly liaises with other health care providers and resources to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery and the development and implementation of improvements to the health and health care system of Ontarians.

The IDCA develops and hosts conferences and workshops for members and non-members, often as joint ventures with other professional associations. The IDCA's newsletter, *Imaging Today*, and *News & Issues* bulletins ensure IHFs are well-positioned and prepared for the future of health care as it evolves.

For more information, call the IDCA at 905-855-0739 and speak with Stephanie Bolton, Executive Director, or visit www.idca.ca.