

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Deputy Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé
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February 26, 2019

FROM: **Helen Angus**
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

RE: Letter from Deputy Minister, Helen Angus, Regarding
Connecting Care in Ontario

Today, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, delivered the Government of Ontario's long-term plan to fix and strengthen the public health care system by focusing directly on the needs of Ontario's patients and families.

The key focus of Ontario's transformative plan is improving the patient experience and enabling better connected public health care.

The government intends to introduce legislation that would, if passed, support the establishment of local Ontario Health Teams that connect health care providers and services around patients and families, and integrate existing multiple provincial agencies into a single health agency – Ontario Health.

Under the new Ontario Health Teams delivery model, health care providers will work as one coordinated team – focusing on the needs of patients at a local level, so people can more easily navigate the system and experience simple transitions from one service provider to another.

When Ontario Health Teams are established, people's choice of providers would remain but they would also have more available care options through technology. As well, with safeguards in place to protect personal health information, patients would have an option to securely access digital health services, such as having access to their electronic health records and virtual care options for patients.

I have seen many projects across the province that have started integration processes and I am confident that many of you, as dedicated care providers and planners, would see a role in better connecting health care for your local communities.

To help achieve an improved experience for both patients and health care providers and planners, the government would integrate multiple provincial agencies and specialized provincial programs into a single agency – Ontario Health. This agency would act as a central point of accountability and oversight of the province's public health care system.

The continuity of patient care remains the top priority. This is why this transition would be done carefully and roll out in phases.

We will continue to work as we are currently doing and you can continue to reach out to your ministry representative and/or key contact.

We will make sure to provide regular communication during this transformation through the ontario.ca/connectedcare page and through emails. I invite you to sign up to receive regular email updates at [Connected Care Updates](#)

I am inviting you to a webcast later today, where ministry leaders and I will discuss this health care system announcement.

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Time: 1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Webcast Link: vvcnetwork.ca/MOHLTCstakeholderwebcast/

The video of this webcast will be posted online if you are not able to attend.

The changes ahead of us are significant but necessary to build a modern, sustainable system that is organized around people's needs and outcomes. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for your ongoing professionalism and the excellent work you have been doing, which we truly rely on.

I look forward to working together to improve our health care system and to give each and every Ontarian the high quality care they deserve.

Helen Angus