

**April 16, 2014**

**BY E-MAIL**

**Ms. Susan Fitzpatrick  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Negotiations and Accountability Management Division  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hepburn Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1R3**

**Dear Ms. Fitzpatrick;**

**RE: 2014 OMA Negotiations & Technical Fee Reimbursement Funds**

The Independent Diagnostic Clinics Association (IDCA) is forwarding this communication to you on behalf of Ontario's independent health facilities (IHF) sector. We are writing today to express our deep concern regarding the possible impact that the upcoming Ontario Medical Association (OMA) negotiations may have on the funding and sustainability of the IHF sector. As representative of ,community-based providers performing more than 50% of all diagnostic services in Ontario, the IDCA is requesting the opportunity to participate and provide input into the next round of negotiations, as same relates to the approximately \$800MM technical fee funding envelope.

Despite the terms of the 2008-2012 Physician's Services Agreement (PSA), the last round of negotiations with the OMA included a reduction in the already outdated and grossly underfunded technical fee schedule of benefits. This decrease, which resulted in compensation rates for technical fees being reduced to 1986 funding levels, occurred without any consultation or input from those directly performing the service and delivering the care. These technical fees are intended to "provide for the premises, equipment, supplies and personnel required for all specific elements of the technical components", however with potential additional funding cuts, this may no longer be possible.

The IDCA has enjoyed working collaboratively with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders for 25 years. We believe that our insight and grassroots knowledge of community-based care can assist the Ministry in the development, implementation and

management of key initiatives, financial and otherwise. As was evident with our October 2011 submission of a proposed governance structure to manage the \$800MM technical fee envelope of funds, we provide useful insights into the complex issues of sustainability, quality and access to care in Ontario. Providing the IDCA with a place at the negotiation table allows the Ministry to be better informed and have access to a balance of information from all interested parties and ensures access for Ontarians to community-based diagnostic services is preserved.

IHF's are proud providers of community-based, high quality care. In order to continue to provide excellent service to Ontarians, it is vital that our sector's contributions be recognized and funded appropriately. It is our desire to continue to work collaboratively with the Ministry, OHA, OMA, LHINs and other key stakeholders. We all have an important role to play in the delivery of cost-effective care in this Province and we trust that the Ministry appreciates the importance of including the IDCA in future negotiation and planning discussions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald Hartman', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Gerald Hartman  
President, IDCA

cc: IDCA Board & Membership  
Pauline Ryan, Director, Diagnostic Services and Planning