



Council of Academic Hospitals  
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April 26, 2012

The Honourable Brad Duguid, MPP  
Minister  
Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation  
Ferguson Block, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

RE: 2012 Ontario Budget

Dear Minister,

We wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you and your government on the passage of the 2012 Ontario Budget. We appreciate that difficult choices need to be made in our current economic environment and we were pleased to see that, on balance, the government remains committed to investing in health research.

We also wanted to thank you and your officials for providing us with an advance briefing on the proposed cap for the Ontario Research Fund. While this will require considerable resources and additional project management by our hospitals to ensure more accurate forecasting of expenditures, we understand the intent for the change is to allow the government to continue funding large-scale transformational research at Ontario's universities, hospitals and research institutes. We look forward to working with your officials to immediately establish an expenditure management working group.

We are also interested in the upcoming decisions that will be made with respect to scaling back on selected transfer payments, including the Commercialization and Innovation Network Support. As your ministry enters into discussion with transfer payment partners to determine how the \$25 million in savings will be achieved we would appreciate updates on this file as deliberations ensue and offer our assistance in any way we can.

Minister, for the past 8 years, your government has been a champion of health research and innovation. Programs from your ministry, such as the Ontario Research Fund, are the building blocks from which we leverage strong partnerships with the private sector to create the jobs and prosperity a strong knowledge-based economy provides. We look forward to continuing to partner with you and your ministry to ensure that together Ontario has a strong, robust health research enterprise.

Sincerely,

Barry McLellan  
Chair, CAHO  
President and CEO,  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Karen Michell  
Executive Director, CAHO