



Council of Academic Hospitals
of Ontario

200 Front Street W, Suite 2501
Toronto, ON M5V 3L1

T 416 205 1336

E info@caho-hospitals.com

www.caho-hospitals.com

April 26, 2012

The Honourable Deb Matthews, MPP
Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

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 are grateful for the time that you and your officials took to speak with members of our Executive Committee in advance of the budget announcement.

Many of the changes proposed in the budget regarding health care have been outlined in Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care, which we continue to support. The budget commitment to hold growth for hospitals' overall operating base to zero percent in 2012-13 will be challenging and we will continue to work with you and your officials to ensure that Ontarians can continue to receive the care they expect and deserve.

We were pleased to see that your government also proposes to accelerate the evidence-based approach to care by building on the mandate of Health Quality Ontario (HQO) to provide recommendations to direct funding to where evidence shows the greatest value. Through the CAHO Adopting Research to Improve Care (ARTIC) Program we continue to learn about the enablers and barriers to adopting evidence-based practices to improve care. This year, the CAHO ARTIC Program is seeking submissions from CAHO members that support the health system need of Transitions in Care. This theme was developed in consultation with both your ministry and Health Quality Ontario. The submissions should address an innovation or practice that supports the coordination and continuity of health care as patients transfer between different care locations or different units or services within the same location, with the goal of improving quality (e.g. patient outcomes) and/or reducing costs to the system. We appreciate the ongoing support of your ministry on this important initiative.

The budget also makes reference to patient-centred funding which we also support in principle. Through ongoing discussions at the Academics Working Group table, we continue to engage with your officials about the need to ensure that the funding formula takes into account the high level of complexity and critical care that our members provide, in addition to the teaching and research that contributes to the expanding knowledge and level of care that our hospitals provide. Together, we need to ensure that as we move forward on implementing the new patient-centred funding that the unique role that our research hospitals serve in our health system is recognized and adequately resourced.



Again, thank you for your ongoing support for our community. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to ensure that Ontario continues to have a strong, robust health research enterprise, and that we are world-leaders in our efficacy in adopting this research evidence to provide the best care to our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry'.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michell'.

Karen Michell
Executive Director, CAHO