



Council of Academic Hospitals  
of Ontario

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April 26, 2012

The Honourable Dwight Duncan, MPP  
Minister  
Ministry of Finance  
Frost Bldg South, 7th Floor  
7 Queen's Park Crescent  
Toronto ON M7A1Y7

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.

#### **Ontario Research Fund Cap**

While the proposed cap on the Ontario Research Fund 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 hospitals, universities and research institutes. We look forward to working with the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation to immediately establish an expenditure management working group to support this initiative and ensure that the Ontario Research Fund continues for many years to come.

#### **Hospital Funding**

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 the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure that Ontarians can continue to receive the care they expect and deserve.

The budget also makes reference to patient-centred funding which we also support in principle. Through ongoing discussions at the Academic Hospital Working Group table, we continue to engage with government 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.

Minister, for the past 8 years, your government has been a champion of health research and innovation, and the contributions that are provided by the research hospital community to the Ontario economy and



the health care system. Programs 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 government to ensure that together Ontario has a strong, robust health research enterprise.

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