

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

Office of the Minister

10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tel 416-327-4300
Fax 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du ministre

10^e étage, édifice Hepburn
80, rue Grosvenor
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Télééc 416-326-1571
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Ms. Susan Eng
Vice President Advocacy
CARP
30 Jefferson Avenue
Toronto ON M6K 1Y4

Dear Ms. Eng: *Susan*

Thank you for writing to me about improving standards and controlling the costs of healthcare, and for forwarding your proposal. I'm pleased to respond.

Please be assured that I as well as my ministry colleagues strongly believe in the delivery of home and community care to help transform the healthcare system. Our ministry also believes that finding innovative ways to deliver health care to an aging population in a smarter, more efficient way will enhance the delivery of that care, thus improving the lives of our loved ones.

Our Action Plan for Healthcare will deliver evidence-based home care where and when our loved ones need timely access to the most appropriate care in the most appropriate place, while ensuring all people across Ontarians get better value for their health dollars.

One of the greatest challenges we have in the health care system is patients who are in hospital beds and could be better cared for at home or in the community if the right supports were in place. Our plan will aggressively move to make progress on this issue by building capacity in the community and thus allow for more hours to be available to those seniors who truly need long-term care.

As part of our Action Plan, our Seniors Care Strategy focuses on supporting seniors to remain healthy and stay at home longer, thus reducing strain on hospitals and long-term care homes.

For more information about Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care, please visit our ministry website at: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/ms/ecfa/healthy_change.

As announced in last year's budget, funding for the entire community sector will increase by an average of four per cent a year over three years. In 2013/14, we have decided to increase funding for the home and community care sector by six per cent, or an additional \$260 million.

I would like to thank you and the members of CARP for working hard to ensure the needs of Canadians are well met. I appreciate you sharing your ideas about meeting health care challenges as we move forward, together.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews

Deb Matthews
Minister