

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

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**Ministère de la Santé
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May 11, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ontario's nurses
RE: National Nursing Week

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Ontario's talented and hardworking nurses for your ongoing efforts and dedication to keeping our people healthy.

The impact your high quality and compassionate care has on patients and their families across the province is beyond measurement. As the primary point of contact for many patients and their families in times of anxiety, you give so much of yourselves in the work you do every day. In addition to that, you continuously help me in my job as Health Minister to improve Ontario's health care system. For example, the leadership nurses demonstrated when you shared your concerns about Ontario's Ebola readiness is truly commendable.

The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa – the largest outbreak of this virus in history – has been underway for over a year. During this time, Ontario's nurses have worked tirelessly to ensure we are prepared to care for any patients with Ebola.

Thanks to the dedication and attention of nurses across the province, our health system has implemented new infection prevention and control measures to protect front line staff and patients from the risk of this disease. Ontario stands ready with a transformed, world-leading health system equipped to tackle future outbreaks – thanks in large part to the dedication of Ontario's nurses.

As Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I rely and will continue to rely on Ontario's nurses to have an open and honest dialogue with me and my ministry. As a health care provider, I understand the unparalleled value nurses bring to their patients, employers and the health care system at large every single day. I firmly believe that nurses are, in many ways, the eyes and ears of our health care system.

Nurses are there for patients and their families when they're at their most fragile and vulnerable. You care for them and comfort them - a shining example of patient-centered care.

Thank you for your passion and commitment to public service. Your spirit of collaboration and co-operation around a common purpose is commendable. I know that the people of Ontario can continue to count on you in any situation that may come our way.

And so, on behalf of the government and the people of Ontario, I wish you a happy National Nursing Week.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

c: Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Sophie Dennis, Deputy Minister of Labour
Dr. David Mowat, Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health
Roselle Martino, Executive Director, Public Health Division