

**Ministry of Health**

Office of the Deputy Premier  
and Minister of Health

777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1N3  
Telephone: 416 327-4300  
Facsimile: 416 326-1571  
www.ontario.ca/health

**Ministère de la Santé**

Bureau du vice-premier ministre  
et du ministre de la Santé

777, rue Bay, 5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 1N3  
Téléphone: 416 327-4300  
Télécopieur: 416 326-1571  
www.ontario.ca/sante



361-2023-956

April 17, 2023

Dr. Angela Ho  
President  
Ontario Psychiatric Association  
7145 West Credit Avenue  
Building 2, Suite 201  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6J7

Dear Dr. Ho:

Thank you for writing to me to request a national summit on mental health. I appreciate the opportunity to respond and would like to acknowledge the Ontario Psychiatric Association's integral role in ensuring that all Ontarians receive world-class mental health and addictions care.

Our government remains deeply focused on building a robust, evidence-based and integrated health care system for individuals facing mental health and addictions challenges. We recognize that for years, Ontarians have waited far too long to connect to care or have faced difficulty navigating a complicated, disjointed system.

Three years ago, we launched our comprehensive strategy, *Roadmap to Wellness*, to improve mental health services for communities across Ontario. Supported by a commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over ten years, the *Roadmap* is adding capacity to meet demand, filling gaps in the care continuum, and creating a provincial infrastructure to connect community, primary and acute care.

Since launching the plan, we have already invested \$525 million in new annualized funding to help mental health and addictions services expand access to care and reduce wait times. To continue this important work, our government is investing an additional \$425 million through the 2023 Budget to:

- Support mental health programs that are community-led and delivered, making it more convenient for people to connect to mental health services closer to home;
- Make a broad range of addictions services available across Ontario that are easy to access and there when needed;

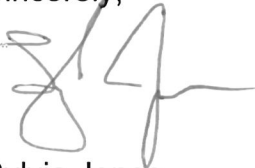
- Support children and youth, by providing access to mental health and addictions services, primary care, and social and community supports to youth aged 12 to 25 through Youth Wellness Hubs;
- Support for children and youth suffering from eating disorders, including inpatient and specialized outpatient services;
- Identify the data and digital health needs of service providers to deliver better care for clients;
- Maintain supportive housing and services for people living with mental health and addictions challenges as they transition from hospital to the community; and
- Work with Indigenous partners and communities to maintain co-developed programs and services that support Indigenous people's access to high-quality, culturally appropriate care.

A key achievement under Roadmap to Wellness has been the creation of the Mental Health and Addictions Centre of Excellence within Ontario Health. Inspired by the success Ontario had in transforming cancer services in the early 2000s, the Centre of Excellence will be putting in place provincial standards to drive consistent care and client experiences across Ontario and a new data/digital infrastructure that will allow data to be captured at the point of care. These mechanisms present the opportunity for Ontario to make some strides in improving equitable access and care in the delivery of community mental health and addictions services across Ontario.

Our government recognizes that reaching out for mental health or substance use support is not easy, which is why we want to ensure help is ready and available when people do reach out. We will continue to work in collaboration with our federal, provincial, territorial and municipal level partners to improve access to mental health and addictions care for those who need it.

Once again, thank you for writing to me about this important matter. I look forward to continuing to work with the Ontario Psychiatric Association to ensure Ontarians receive the mental health and addictions services and supports that they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions