

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
Toronto ON M7A 2C4
Tél 416-327-4300
Télé 416-326-1571
www.health.gov.on.ca



HLTC2972IT-2012-296

MAR 05 2013

His Worship Leslie Gamble
Mayor, Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers
PO Box 5, Site 1, RR 3
11 Birch Lake Road
Massey ON P0P 1P0

Dear Mayor ~~Gamble~~: *Leslie*

I would like to thank you and the representative from the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers for meeting with Michael Coe, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference in Ottawa on August 20, 2012.

As I understand, at the meeting, you discussed your concerns regarding non-urgent patient transportation within your Township. I appreciate the complexities of the issues and understand that both the Township and hospital are concerned about the financial and operational limitations to providing Emergency Medical Services and non-urgent patient transportation.

The Ministry is engaged in broad expert and stakeholder consultations on these and related matters, including safety and quality, arising from non-urgent patient transportation. These consultations have helped us develop a more substantial understanding of the sector. As new information arrives, the Ministry will continue to consider measures to address non-urgent patient transportation issues. We will also continue to engage with municipalities during this process.

The Ministry has also finalized funding agreement details with seven Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) for the one-time transformation fund of \$20 million for small and rural communities announced in the 2012 Budget. This allocation will fund the development of sustainable solutions to help hospitals better serve patients and improve their linkages with other community care providers, including non-urgent transportation services. Please contact your LHIN for more information on this initiative.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

Deb Matthews
Minister