

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Office of the Associate Minister

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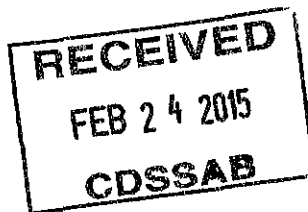
Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée

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FEB 17 2015



HLTC5845AMC-2014-48

Mr. Gary Scripnick
Chair
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers
Association (NOSDA)
500 Algonquin Blvd. East
Timmins ON P4N 1B7

Dear Mr. Scripnick:

Thank you for your letter regarding our meeting and for sharing NOSDA's position paper, *Emergency Medical Service Concerns in Northern Ontario*, and the Executive Summary of North East LHIN's report on Non-Urgent Patient Transportation with me.

I, too, appreciated speaking with you at the AMO Delegation Session. I was glad to share my thoughts on non-urgent patient transfers with you.

I have shared both the position paper and executive summary with the appropriate ministry staff for their review. As you know, this ministry is committed to working together with our external and internal partners to develop guidelines and standards for the non-ambulance, non-urgent stretcher transportation services (STS) sector.

The safe and timely transfer of patients between health care settings is important to the ministry and, as you know, the ministry has made funding available to the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) through the \$20-million Small and Rural Hospital Transformation Fund to support improvements to service integration and transformation, including non-urgent transportation capacity in rural and northern communities. It was through this funding program that the North East LHIN was able to complete the report on non-urgent patient transportation that you sent me.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your input. I do apologize for the lateness in my reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dipika Damerla".

Dipika Damerla
Associate Minister