

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

Office of the Minister

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

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December 21, 2017

HLTC2968MC-2017

Mr. Dalton Burger  
President  
College of Nurses of Ontario  
101 Davenport Road  
Toronto ON M5R 3P1

Dear Mr. Burger:

I am writing in regards to the colleges' position on registered nurses (RN) initiating the controlled act of psychotherapy.

Once proclaimed, a RN will require an order from a physician or nurse practitioner (NP) to perform this controlled act. I do not believe that this position is in the best interest of patients. Therefore, in anticipation of the controlled act of psychotherapy being in force, I ask that the College's Council revisit this requirement and allow RNs to initiate the controlled act independently.

Access to high quality mental health services is extremely important to me and I have full confidence in a RNs' ability to make an appropriate assessment to initiate the act.

I understand that at a recent meeting of the Joint Provincial Nursing Committee, the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of the CNO indicated that once the controlled act is proclaimed into force, the college would review its position and policies on the initiation of psychotherapy by RNs. I also understand that at its December meeting Council decided to review the matter. I am encouraged to hear this and would appreciate an update from the college as soon as possible.

I know I have asked the college to undertake a number of priority initiatives this year, please extend my appreciation to the Council.

I appreciate your cooperation in addressing this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hoskins'.

Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC  
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, HWPRAD  
Ian Chesney, Senior Policy Advisor, Minister's Office, MOHLTC  
Anne Coghlan, Executive Director, College of Nurses of Ontario  
Dr. Doris Grinspun, Chief Executive Officer, Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario  
Linda Haslam-Stroud, President, Ontario Nurses Association