



RNAO

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

October 14, 2016

RE: Meeting of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Health Ministers

Dear Minister Philpott and Minister Hoskins:

Congratulations on furthering negotiations for the next Canadian Health Accord. The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) sees this as a golden opportunity to build the next phase of our publicly-funded and not-for-profit health system. RNs, NPs, and nursing students urge you to use your meeting on October 18th to successfully negotiate a new agreement that:

- encompasses enough health transfers to provinces and territories to support all essential health services and continues the six per cent annual escalation delivered under the previous accord;
- enforces the principles and spirit of the *Canada Health Act*;
- establishes a pharmacare program that is universally accessible for all medically necessary drugs and that does not include co-payments or user-fees;
- establishes a national home care program;
- advances interprofessional primary care with registered nurses and nurse practitioners working to full and expanded scopes of practice; and
- ensures the full participation of Indigenous communities in all health discussions to develop a long-term plan that fully addresses their health needs.

Canadians cherish their health-care system and while there are limitations that need to be addressed, the task is realistic and achievable. Doing so requires strong and courageous leadership and we turn to you and your colleagues to deliver this. As nurses we are unwavering in our commitment to best serve the public and strengthen our publicly funded and not-for-profit health system. And, as you move ahead with this second health accord, you can count on us to deliver.

Warm regards,

Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), O.ONT
Chief Executive Officer, RNAO