



March 14, 2022

The Honourable Christine Elliott, M.P.P.,
Minister of Health

Via email

RE: Ontario Community Physiotherapy Clinic Program

Dear Minister Elliott,

I am writing to resolve an urgent situation that will have long-lasting impacts on access to medically necessary, publicly-funded rehabilitation in Ontario.

The Community Physiotherapy Clinic program (CPC) is the only publicly-funded clinic-based community access point for physiotherapy and is the only way many seniors and vulnerable Ontarians can access rehabilitation post-surgically, or to manage injuries or exacerbations of chronic illness. In less than a month, the current Transfer Payment Agreements (TPA) that fund the clinics will end and those who hold agreements are having to make tough choices in the face of significant financial difficulties to either stop providing services or risk doing so without payment.

Many cannot afford the risk and will be forced to leave the program, which will significantly reduce capacity for rehabilitation at a time that Ontarians need it most. Please see attached a letter sent to you and Premier Ford on March 11, 2021 that highlighted the challenges experienced by CPCs due to the pandemic, the need for financial support and lack of access to small business supports due to ineligibility based on criteria that excluded health care clinics employing regulated practitioners. We have not had any acknowledgement of this letter, nor any response to these substantial concerns.

The situation about which we warned you about last March has deteriorated markedly over the past year. Clinics are still dealing with pandemic impacts and restrictions that keep them from meeting their utilization targets in this volume-based funding model, while their expenses remain high as they have contractual obligations to maintain full capacity. Without some relief, many CPCs will face claw backs that will further cripple their already precarious financial position.

These problems are now compounded by the Transfer Payment Agreements with CPC Clinics expiring on March 31, 2022. The only communication CPCs have received from the Ministry was in mid-February indicating that 'work is underway to extend the TPAs for a two-year period with 'a potential consideration of rate increase, details to be

determined' and that 'there is no indication that financial support' will be provided to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

I hope you can understand that 'work underway' does not give sufficient confidence to clinic owners who have to make major decisions about staffing, lease arrangements, and financing facilities and, quite frankly, whether to continue participating in the Program at all. In addition to uncertainty around the extension of the TPAs, crucial information relating to them has not been provided, such as whether fees, which have not changed since the program began in 2013, will be adjusted, whether they will face a claw back of funding due to unused Episodes of Care (EOCs) or, at the very least, whether the unused EOCs will be rolled over into subsequent fiscal years. Rolling the unused EOCs forward is necessary, not only to help to ease the financial impact of the pandemic on TPA holders, but also to ensure access to rehabilitation to clear the backlog of non-essential surgeries and other procedures.

Directly affected are just over 260 community-based clinics located in every riding across Ontario, including five in your Electoral District. They are essential to the communities they serve. Most are small, or medium-sized and privately owned clinics that have been hard hit by the pandemic, whose financial reserves have been exhausted, but who have been excluded from pandemic-related government subsidy programs. To use an analogy, the situation in which CPC TPA holders find themselves today is akin to someone whose apartment lease expires in 15 days, who has been told by the landlord that he plans to send a new lease at some point, but no information has been provided as to what the lease cost will be, or when the landlord intends to actually sign it.

Minister, I implore you to direct your Ministry to renew the CPC TPAs without further delay, to adjust the fees and to consider limiting claw backs of unused funding or at a minimum roll unused Episodes of Care into future years so that this program is viable and sustainable for the many Ontarians who depend on it to improve their function, mobility, and quality of life.

Yours sincerely,



Dorianne Sauvé
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Ms. France Gélinas, M.P.P.
Mr. John Fraser, M.P.P.
Mr. Mike Schreiner, M.P.P.