



ONTARIO
PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION

August 8, 2022

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, M.P.P.,
Minister of Health

Via email

Dear Minister Jones,

The Ontario Physiotherapy Association (OPA) is the Ontario Branch of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association representing more than 6000 member physiotherapists, physiotherapy residents, physiotherapist assistants, and students across the province. **On behalf of our membership, we congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Health and offer our sincere best wishes in your work for the people of Ontario.**

The OPA has a long history of working collaboratively with Ministers of Health and the Ministry to achieve the health and system outcomes that are critical to Ontarians. In these very demanding and unprecedented times, as we navigate the re-opening of Ontario in this phase of the pandemic and the challenges to the capacity of our health system, we look forward to working with you to find solutions that can be implemented quickly, cost-effectively, and that will help ensure care is available and accessible.

The most effective and efficient health system is one that puts patients first and facilitates timely access to care by allowing regulated health professionals to work to the full extent of their competencies. Evidence shows that **physiotherapists ordering diagnostic testing within their scope of practice allows for more timely access to care and reduces the burden and costs of additional physician and emergency room visits to receive needed services.** In addition, access to physiotherapy allows Ontarians, especially seniors, to live longer with more independence in their homes and communities.

Bill 179 was passed, with all-party support, in December, 2009. It formally **recognized that the scope of physiotherapists includes ordering diagnostic imaging and certain laboratory tests.** On April 1, 2018, an amendment to the Healing Arts Radiation Protection Act contained in Bill 179 was proclaimed and enables physiotherapists to prescribe x-rays as set out in regulation. We, alongside the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario, have done everything your Ministry has asked of us to complete the

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regulations needed to implement the full scope of practice of physiotherapists in Ontario as set out in Bill 179. The only barrier that remains is to pass the necessary regulations.

Now is the time when Ontario needs health professionals, including physiotherapists, to be able to work up to their full competencies to meet the needs of patients and the health system. We would be pleased to meet with you to further discuss this issue and other ways the physiotherapy profession can be of assistance to achieve your objectives for an effective and efficient health system for Ontarians.

Once again, please accept our sincere congratulations and best wishes on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "O. Cheifetz".

Dr. Oren Cheifetz PT, PhD
President