



## **ONTARIO GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO IMPORTANT STEPS IN FULFILLING PATIENTS FIRST AGENDA**

**(Toronto, September 20, 2017) The Ontario Physiotherapy Association welcomes today's announcement by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care that the Ontario government intends to move forward with scope of practice changes for several professions including physiotherapy.**

In December 2009, the Ontario Legislature passed amendments to the *Physiotherapy Act* that added to the controlled acts and other restricted activities that physiotherapists may perform. Though many of these have been implemented, others including ordering x-rays, laboratory tests and ordering or applying forms of energy such as diagnostic ultrasound, were not.

Today's announcement signals another important step in the government's ongoing initiatives to put "Patient's First" by implementing the outstanding scope of practice changes for physiotherapy and many other health care professions. Implementation will improve the patient experience, facilitate access to health care services and boost the efficiency and effectiveness of Ontario's health care system. Implementation will also make fuller use of the knowledge, skill and experience of Ontario's regulated healthcare professionals. Wendy Smith, OPA President and a practising physiotherapist stated "The OPA applauds Dr. Hoskins, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the government for their commitment to complete the scope of practice changes for physiotherapists announced in 2009. We will continue to work with the Minister, the Ministry, the government and all stakeholders on implementation of these changes for the benefit of Ontarians".

Dorianne Sauvé, OPA CEO explained that, once the remaining scope of practice changes have been implemented, members of the physiotherapy profession who have met the training and education requirements to perform these authorities safely and effectively and who roster with the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario will be allowed to perform them. "These changes once implemented will allow physiotherapists to better coordinate with each patient's health care team to make sure patients get the care they need, when and where they need it. Implementation will also mean that patients will be able to access faster diagnoses and treatment without adding additional costs to the system from repeated visits to their primary care provider or emergency room to get referrals for diagnostic testing."



**ONTARIO  
PHYSIOTHERAPY  
ASSOCIATION**

The Ontario Physiotherapy Association (OPA) is the Ontario Branch of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association representing more than 6000 physiotherapists, physiotherapist assistants and students in the province.

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