



April 4, 2019

Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister, Deputy Premier
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor St., Toronto, M7A 1E9
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Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister
Ministry of Education
900 Bay St., Mowat Block, 22nd Floor Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
minister.edu@ontario.ca

Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
80 Grosvenor St., Hepburn Block, 6th Floor Toronto, ON M7A 1E9
MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca

RE: Children Count Task Force: Letter of Endorsement for Recommendations

Dear Ministers,

I write on behalf of the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) in strong support of the [recommendations](#) identified by the Children Count Task Force. These recommendations support Ontario's children and youth by coordinating, integrating, enhancing and streamlining the systems and processes that monitor and assess their health and well-being.

APHEO is a not-for-profit association comprised of approximately 300 members who seek to advance and promote the discipline and professional practice of public health epidemiology in the Province of Ontario. Our members play a key role in providing data on the health and well-being of Ontario's children and youth to plan, implement, and evaluate programs and services and to inform public policies that create the conditions to support their ongoing growth and development.

High quality data not only supports the public sector in meeting our interconnected and interrelated goals and mandates, in addition, **it may give every child and youth living in Ontario a fair opportunity to be the healthiest that they can be.**



The recommendations were formulated by a collaboration of leaders from federal and provincial government agencies and ministries, academics, public health units, boards of education, and non-government organizations. We firmly believe that adopting and implementing the recommendations will provide the information that all stakeholders need to properly assess and monitor the health and well-being of our children and youth and to evaluate the return on investment for related programs and services.

A coordinated provincial system, that produces high quality data made available to multiple sectors, will ensure that taxpayer dollars are allocated to programs and services that best meet the needs of our children and youth.

We respectfully request that the Honourable Ministers seriously consider adopting and implementing these recommendations and welcome any opportunities to consult or engage in future actions that would support this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stanley Ing'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stanley Ing

President, Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario

Copy:

Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Nancy Naylor, Deputy Minister of Education

Janet Menard, Deputy Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Dr. Robert Kyle, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg, President, Ontario Public Health Association

Nicole Dupuis, Chair, Children Count Task Force