



**Mission**

Committed to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related healthcare settings.

Engag s   l'avancement de l'utilisation s curitaire et efficace des m dicaments, et des soins aux patients dans les  tablissements de sant .

The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

Le Journal canadien de la pharmacie hospitali re

Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board

Conseil canadien de r sidence en pharmacie d'h pital

Board of Fellows

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OPEN LETTER

October 7, 2009

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, M.P.P.  
Premier of Ontario  
Government of Ontario  
Main Legislative Building, Room 281  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

We are writing today to commend you for the calm and considered remarks you made in a Canadian Press article last week. The article (by Keith Leslie, September 23, 2009) dealt with the Ontario Medical Association's (OMA) criticism of your government's move to enhance patient access to health care by expanding the range of services pharmacists can offer residents of Ontario.

As a national organization of 2,600 pharmacists committed to the advancement of safe, patient-centred pharmacy practice in hospitals and related healthcare settings, the members of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, in particular the 1,000 members of its Ontario Branch, strongly agree with you that patient safety is a top priority and that the role of pharmacists can safely be expanded to provide the healthcare services Ontarians need and to alleviate stresses on the healthcare system. The new roles and responsibilities proposed for pharmacists are appropriate and in keeping with the extensive and focused education and clinical training all pharmacists in Ontario must complete.

While we are disappointed with the very public efforts of the OMA's Section of General and Family Practitioners to alarm residents of the province and call into question our members' qualifications, we have chosen not to reply in an equally public manner. In the spirit of professionalism, we, like you, believe that much-needed enhancements to patient access should be communicated in a way that builds patient confidence and promotes the contributions of all healthcare professionals who work together every day.

Our members remain committed to collaborating closely with physicians and nurse practitioners in the interests of patients. We are equally committed to working closely with your ministers and officials to ensure the same trouble-free implementation of these changes that were brought about in a growing number of Canadian provinces and in other countries around the globe.

Sincerely,

Jason Howorko  
President

John McBride  
President, CSHP Ontario Branch

cc: The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care