



March 7, 2016

Ms. Angie Heydon, Executive Director  
Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario  
60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 800  
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1N5

Ms. Theresa Agnew, NP-PHC, Executive Director  
Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario  
1 Yonge Street (Toronto Star Building), Suite 1801  
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1W7

Ms. Adrianna Tetley, Chief Executive Officer  
Association of Ontario Health Centres  
500-970 Lawrence Ave West  
Toronto, ON M6A 3B6

Dear Ms. Heydon, Ms. Agnew & Ms. Tetley,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Ontario Branch (CSHP-OB) to advocate for our members some of whom are currently working in Family Health Teams (FHTs) across the province. CSHP-OB is the provincial voice of pharmacists working in hospital and other collaborative healthcare settings.

We would like to congratulate all three organizations for the advocacy work done for additional funding from the Ministry to support inter-professional primary care. The work being done today by your front-line nurses, pharmacists, dieticians and other allied health professional is essential to make Ontario residents healthier.

Many of the pharmacists practicing in FHTs have honed their advanced clinical practice skills in previous hospital work experience and have brought their critical thinking skillset into the primary care environment to enhance patient care. We know they are an invaluable resource to the FHTs, staff and patients.

We understand there are challenges facing recruitment and retention of advanced clinical pharmacists for many of the FHTs. We hope the additional funding will help with retaining current pharmacists for the long term. In addition to retention of pharmacist, CSHP-OB hopes we can successfully advocate for pharmacists to be part of not only every FHT interdisciplinary team in Ontario but also part of interdisciplinary teams working in Family Health Organizations and Community Health Centres.

Personally, I have had the opportunity to attend the annual Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO) the previous 3 years. When attending, I have learned about the numerous successful programs utilizing a strong interdisciplinary team approach to improve patient outcomes. Majority of the time, a



pharmacist is vital part of these successful teams. I myself am a practicing pharmacist and do work with a FHT.

We would also like to provide you background on hospital pharmacist salaries, as determined by the Hospital Pharmacy in Canada 2013/14 report released last spring. This comprehensive document is published every 3 years and can help with determining fair compensation for advanced clinical pharmacists.

CSHP-OB is looking forward to beginning a positive relationship with your organizations and finding a venue to advocate for our members on issues such as retention and recruiting. We propose a teleconference be arranged for an initial discussion and begin to learn how we can help each other.

Sincerely,



Savminderjit (Sammu) Dhaliwall, RPh, BScPhm, ACPR, Pharm D  
President, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists – Ontario Branch

