



Ontario Society of Nutrition
Professionals in Public Health

La société ontarienne des professionnel(le)s
de la nutrition en santé publique

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November 7, 2017

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
80 Grosvenor Street
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Hoskins:

The Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) would like to take the opportunity to recognize and congratulate your Ministry for supporting and sustaining EatRight Ontario (ERO). As ERO marks its 10 year anniversary, it is important to recognize that ERO provides an essential service to the Ontario public and complements the nutrition promotion work of the public health system.

OSNPPH is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians (RDs) working in Ontario's public health system. OSNPPH members apply evidence informed nutrition information to enable healthy eating at every stage of life; advocate for and provide support to create food policies and healthier eating environments; as well as implement and evaluate nutrition education and skill building programs. As members of the College of Dietitians of Ontario, OSNPPH's Registered Dietitians are credible food and nutrition experts, and are also uniquely educated to promote healthy eating at the population-level.

The investment throughout the past 10 years from the Ontario government into ERO addresses barriers of remote access, user fees, language and wait times. Easy and dependable access across Ontario means that Ontario residents are able to connect with RDs for current, evidence informed information to support healthy eating. ERO dietitians provide service by telephone, email and website, and also connect clients to local nutrition related services by maintaining community-specific databases. Ontarians can access ERO services no matter where they live and in over 100 languages, including French, thereby helping to reduce health inequities.

Consumers acknowledge the importance of and have a keen interest in the role of nutrition in overall wellness through the lifecycle, as well as prevention and management of chronic disease; therefore it is critical to ensure that a continuum of high-quality and consistent nutrition services are available to meet the various needs of Ontarians, from treating illness, to educating individuals, to building community capacity, to creating supportive food environments, and advocating for healthy food policies. As an important complement to our own work at the population-level, OSNPPH members greatly appreciate being able to promote the reliable and high-quality services and information provided by ERO to

individuals and other health professionals, knowing that this fills the gap that existed prior to ERO's existence.

Again, we congratulate your Ministry on your support of EatRight Ontario, making credible healthy eating information from RDs more accessible to assist Ontarians in leading healthier lives where they live, play, work and learn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Erinn Salewski".

Erinn Salewski, RD
Chair, OSNPPH

Cc:

Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ms. Jennifer Buccino, Regional Executive Director, Northwest and Central Ontario, Dietitians of Canada

Ms. Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Ms. Pegeen Walsh, Executive Director, Ontario Public Health Association

Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance

Ontario Public Health Units