

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de la Santé  
et des Soins de longue durée**

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Ms. Tiffany Haidon  
President  
College of Midwives of Ontario  
21 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 303  
Toronto Ontario M4T 1L9

Dear Ms. Haidon:

I am writing in regard to the prescribing controlled drugs and substances and ordering of laboratory tests by midwives.

The *Patients First: Action Plan for Health Care* sets out four pillars that underlie our government's plan to change and improve our health care system: Access, Connect, Inform and Protect. As part of the Access pillar, the government is committed to providing increased access to the right care, which includes expanding scopes of practice. To this end, I have asked the ministry to move forward on assessing scope of practice changes beginning with the *Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act*, or Bill 179.

I have directed the ministry to implement an approach to reviewing scope of practice requests based on the principles of putting patients first. The ministry has developed a Model for the Evaluation of Scopes of Practice in Ontario (MESPO), a framework that sets out a rigorous approach that focuses on patient need, system need and safe practice, to guide decision-making and implementation. The MESPO framework will be used to assess all scope changes going forward.

To help achieve the Patients First Action Plan's objective to increase access to the right care at the right time, the scopes of practice initiative will require extensive work between the College and the ministry.

I am asking for your College's cooperation in working with the ministry to move forward on these items, which will involve making of both College and government regulations. Ministry staff will be in contact with your College to discuss timelines and the staging activities related to this work. Staff will work with you to move these forward as quickly as possible.

I would like to thank you for your continued contributions to the healthcare system in Ontario and I look forward to your participation on this important project.

Ms. Tiffany Haidon

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Yours sincerely,



Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister

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c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister, MOHLTC  
Denise Cole, Assistant Deputy Minister, HWPRAD, MOHLTC  
Kelly Dobbin, Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, College of Midwives of Ontario  
Elizabeth Brandeis, President, Association of Ontario Midwives  
Kelly Stadelbauer, Executive Director, Association of Ontario Midwives