

**Ministry of Health**

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and Minister of Health

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**RECEIVED**

**March 20, 2023**

REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

March 16, 2023

Gurpreet Malhotra  
Chief Executive Officer  
Indus Community Services  
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Priyanka Sheth  
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Dixie Bloor Neighborhood Centre  
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Baldev Mutta  
Chief Executive Officer  
Punjabi Community Health Services  
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Angela Carter  
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David Smith  
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Kimberley Floyd  
Chief Executive Officer  
Welfort Community Health Services  
[kimberley.floyd@welfort.ca](mailto:kimberley.floyd@welfort.ca)

Dear Gurpreet Malhotra, Priyanka Sheth, Baldev Mutta, Angela Carter, David Smith,  
Kimberley Floyd:

I am pleased to advise that the Ministry of Health (the “ministry”) will provide Ontario Health (“OH”) with one-time funding of up to \$25,000,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year to improve health outcomes for high priority communities.

The HPC Strategy was established to improve health outcomes in High Priority communities by offering culturally responsive outreach, removing barriers to accessing health care and offering connections to wrap-around supports. This approach has been found to be highly effective in improving health outcomes through proactive preventive care for populations facing systemic barriers to care (i.e., low income, Black, racialized, Indigenous, and newcomer populations).

The funding will enable targeted investments in locally developed, culturally responsive interventions to improve healthcare access (i.e., cancer and diabetes screening, mental health and addictions supports, etc.) and improve access to wrap-around social supports (i.e., transportation, housing, etc.).

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

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The Strategy will continue to support lead agencies to:

- Increase screening for cancer and other chronic disease
- Address mental health & substance use
- Enhance population specific wellness models
- Address unmet primary care needs

I would like to thank Ontario Health and community lead agencies for their continued dedication and commitment to serving High Priority Communities and working collaboratively with the ministry.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Greg Hein at [greg.hein@ontario.ca](mailto:greg.hein@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones,  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Michael A. Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Matthew Anderson, CEO, Ontario Health  
Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Health  
Carolyn Bennett, Associate Minister of Health & Minister of Mental Health & Addictions  
Karli Farrow, President and CEO, Trillium Health Partners  
Dr. Frank Martino, President and CEO, William Osler Health System  
Dr. Kate Bingham, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel  
Nando Iannica, Chair, Peel Regional Council  
Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton  
Bonnie Crombie, Mayor of Mississauga  
Annette Groves, Mayor of Caledon  
Susan deRyk, Ontario Health, Central Region

March 8, 2023

The Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Hon. Sylvia Jones  
Ontario Minister of Health  
[sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)

The Hon. Michael Tibollo  
Ontario Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions  
[michael.tibollococo@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.tibollococo@pc.ola.org)

Matthew Anderson  
President & CEO, Ontario Health  
[matthew.anderson@ontariohealth.ca](mailto:matthew.anderson@ontariohealth.ca)

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Jones, Minister Tibollo and Mr. Anderson:

I write on behalf of the Region of Peel to advocate for the continuation of funding for Peel's six High Priority Communities (HPCS) Strategy Lead Agencies.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, it was recognized that an equitable response would require deep, locally-contextualized data and insights, along with trust within priority populations. HPCS Lead Agencies have filled this gap in the health system in Peel. Thirty Community Health Ambassadors are present within communities throughout Peel, building trust and supporting access to services and reliable health information. Their efforts and trusted positions have proven critical to Peel's COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts as they worked to reinforce messaging and promote positive behaviours, including vaccination, from within priority populations.

Their connections and relationships with these populations, and the cultural, community, and faith-based institutions that support them, provide both important insights about those populations and points of trusted connection that support access to the larger system. The Lead Agencies have used these connections to dismantle barriers faced by Peel's most vulnerable populations in accessing critical services.

**Nando Iannicca**  
Regional Chair & CEO

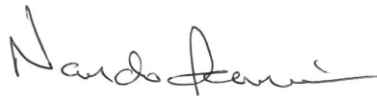
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HPCS Lead Agencies have now extended their focus to other important areas including diabetes prevention and management, cancer screening, mental health, and health care connection. Once again, their community-oriented approach is filling a critical gap in tackling these issues, dismantling long established barriers, and promoting healthy equity at a foundational level. The improved access provided through these trusted connections helps to avoid dangerous and expensive crisis situations by ensuring people access care before crises arise.

The potential of the HPCS program is only just beginning to be revealed. Continued and consistent funding is needed to ensure the trusted positions developed by Lead Agencies can continue to develop in support of the larger health system in Peel.

We are asking that the Ontario government extend HPCS funding and make that funding predictable to ensure operational sustainability.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca  
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer  
Region of Peel

cc. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
cc. Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Health  
cc. Carolyn Bennett, Associate Minister of Health & Minister of Mental Health & Addictions  
cc. Karli Farrow, President and CEO, Trillium Health Partners  
cc. Dr. Frank Martino, President and CEO, William Osler Health System  
cc. Dr. Kate Bingham, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel  
cc. Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton  
cc. Bonnie Crombie, Mayor of Mississauga  
cc. Annette Groves, Mayor of Caledon  
cc. Susan deRyk, Ontario Health, Central Region