



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Ontario
Mental health for all

**Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale**
Ontario
La santé mentale pour tous

Highlights from Ontario Ministers' mandate letters Released September 23, 2016

The Honourable Deborah Matthews

Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development

- Responsible fiscal management remains an overarching priority for the government — a priority echoed strongly in our 2016 Budget.
- Government is on track to balance the budget next year, in 2017–18,

Under “*Increase Access to High-quality and Affordable College and University Education*” mandate of the letter, the Minister is asked to:

- Work with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, college and university leaders, students and other partners to enhance access to mental health services for students.

The Honourable Yasir Naqvi

Attorney General

Under “*Strengthening Police Oversight in Ontario*”, the Attorney General is to work on:

- Supporting the independent review being conducted by the Honourable Michael H. Tulloch to enhance the transparency and accountability of the province's three police oversight bodies.
- Following the receipt of Justice Tulloch's recommendations, you will move forward with a plan to strengthen Ontario's police oversight bodies in a way that complements the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services' forthcoming Strategy for a Safer Ontario.

The Honourable Michael Coteau

Minister of Children and Youth Services

Under “*Creating Conditions for Youth to Achieve their Full Potential*”, the Minister's mandate notes:

- Continuing to work with providers to create a transformed child and youth mental health system that connects youth and their families to high quality, easy to access supports.
- Continuing work with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to align child and youth mental health services with adult mental health services so young adults experience smooth transitions.
- Continuing to work with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council to explore evidence-based options on how to improve addictions programming for children and youth.

The Honourable Helena Jaczek

Minister of Community and Social Services

The mandate letter noted that in addition to other priority activities, The Premier asked that the Minister deliver results for Ontarians by driving progress in the following areas:

- Continue to work to end sheltered workshops by working with funded agencies,

individuals and their families to develop transition plans to protect people with disabilities and give them competitive employment and meaningful participation in the community.

- Support the work of the Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy on implementing *Realizing Our Potential*, Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- Support the Minister of Housing in the implementation of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy and in the work to end chronic homelessness.
- Collaborate with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and others, as required to deliver the second phase of Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and work together more broadly to meet the needs of adults with developmental disabilities.

The Honourable David Oraziatti

Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Under "Modernizing Public Safety", the Minister was asked to:

- Building on the consultations to date to support the development of the Strategy for a Safer Ontario.
- Introduce legislation in spring 2017 to modernize the *Police Services Act* to build safer, stronger communities across the province.
- Develop options to prioritize de-escalation in police interactions with the public.
- Supporting the Attorney General following the independent review of police oversight in the province.
- As committed to in spring 2016, in consultation with the Anti-Racism Directorate, selecting an independent reviewer to complete a review of the regulation prohibiting the arbitrary collection of identifying information by police within two years of full regulatory implementation. Launch a multi-year academic study to better understand the impact on community safety of collecting identifying information through police interactions.

The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins

Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

The Premier's mandate letter acknowledges significant progress, for example:

- Launch of the next phase of the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.
- Announced an investment of \$222 million over the next three years for the First Nations Health Action Plan and, as part of Ontario's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, announced investments to expand access to Indigenous Mental Health and Addictions Treatment and Healing Centres and mental health and wellness programs.

Under the "*Connect: Delivering Co-ordinated and Integrated Care in the Community and Closer to Home*" priority of the mandate, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care is tasked to:

- Develop a capacity planning framework to help support the provision of care in the most appropriate setting possible across the health care continuum — hospital, long-term care and community — by reducing the rate of Alternative Level of Care, lowering hospital readmission rates, implementing the Home and Community Care Roadmap, improving palliative care in all settings and making capital investments where appropriate.
- Connect and integrate the mental health and addictions system for all patients, including co-ordination with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, to ensure patients receive high quality care wherever they access services, following advice received from the Mental Health and Addictions Leadership Advisory Council.

The Honourable Kevin Flynn
[Minister of Labour](#)

The Premier acknowledge significant progress in the original mandate with the following results, for example:

- Amended the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* to more effectively prevent and address sexual violence and harassment in the workplace.
- Improved the way we prevent and acknowledge workplace mental health issues, such as traumatic mental stress, including requiring prevention plans, holding annual summits to ensure best prevention practices and providing a streamlined Workplace Safety and Insurance process for first responders who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Under “*Promoting Occupational Health and Safety*” priority of the new mandate, the Minister of Labour is tasked to:

- Continuing to implement the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel to transform Ontario’s occupational health and safety system.
- Developing new strategies to eliminate violence in the workplace including continuing to work with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Minister of Education to address violence in health care, education and other broader public sector workplaces.

In addition to the priority activities above, the Premier asked that the Minister also deliver results for Ontarians by driving progress in continuing to expand mental health protections for Ontario’s workers.