

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

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MAY 26 2017

MAY 30 2017

Ms. Nancy Sullivan
Chair
Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Board of Health
160 Chancellors Way
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 0E1

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program. I am pleased to respond.

Programs like HBHC are important in helping children reach their full potential in Ontario. Our government continues to invest \$205.3 million annually. This funding enables healthy child development programs to provide early identification, assessment and intervention services. Building on this commitment, the ministry has also invested significant resources in supporting program changes which have helped health units deliver an increased range of evidence-based interventions.

I appreciate that the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit has had to make some challenging decisions about how you deliver HBHC. In response to concerns, my predecessor, the Honourable Tracy MacCharles, initiated an external review of the HBHC program with a focus on sustainability. The ministry is examining the results to identify program-wide opportunities and impacts. When the internal analysis is completed, you will receive a communication outlining key findings and next steps.

As the health unit works through the budget and planning process, ministry staff are available to provide support. Please contact Stacey Weber, A/Director, Early Child Development Branch, 416-327-7386 if you would like to discuss this matter further. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is committed to continuing to support programs that provide prevention and early intervention, including HBHC.

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Again, thank you for writing and for your continued partnership and engagement in helping improve the health and well-being of children and families in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Michael Coteau
Minister

c: Liz Sandals, President, Treasury Board, MPP, Guelph
Ted Arnott, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
Stacey Weber, A/Director, Early Child Development Branch
Rachael Manson-Smith, A/Manager, Child Development Policy and Programs Unit