



Ontario College of Family Physicians

December 18, 2017

The Honourable Helena Jacek, Minister of Community and Social Services
Ministry of Community and Social Services
6th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1E9

Dear Minister,

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) are pleased to support the Income Security Reform Working Group report, *A Roadmap for Change* (“the Roadmap”). The Roadmap offers a comprehensive strategy to modernize income security in Ontario, which, if adopted, would significantly address the social determinants of health (including income equality, food security and housing status) leading to improvements in health and quality of life for low-income Ontarians.

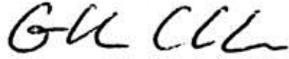
Family physicians are acutely aware of how poverty affects health. Both the CFPC and OCFP are committed to advocating for policies that support vulnerable populations and lead to healthier outcomes. This is demonstrated through efforts to ensure equity and access to comprehensive primary health care within the Patient’s Medical Home and in high-quality continuing professional development such as “Treating Poverty”, a program developed by Dr. Gary Bloch, Chair of the OCFP Poverty and Health Committee.

The CFPC represents more than 36,000 members across the country. It is the professional organization responsible for establishing standards for the training, certification and lifelong education of family physicians. The College provides quality services and programs, supports family medicine teaching and research, and advocates on behalf of family physicians and the specialty of family medicine. The CFPC accredits postgraduate family medicine training in Canada’s 17 medical schools.

The OCFP is the voice of family medicine representing over 12,000 family physicians providing patient care across communities throughout the province. The organization’s mandate is to support members by providing evidence-based education and professional development, by promoting and recognizing leadership excellence in family medicine, and by advocating for the role family physicians play in delivering the highest quality care to patients and families across Ontario.

The recommendations included in the Roadmap, including expanding access to essential health benefits to all low-income Ontarians, and immediately increasing the income support for those in deepest poverty, will materially address the social determinants of health in Ontario. We commend the Income Security Reform Working Groups' efforts to produce this important document, and encourage the Government of Ontario to fully implement its recommendations when considering changes to the income security system in 2018.

Sincerely,



Guillaume Charbonneau, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President, CFPC



Glenn Brown, MD, CCFP (EM), FCFP
President, OCFP

cc: Dr. Francine Lemire, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, CFPC
Ms. Leanne Clarke, Chief Executive Officer, OCFP
Mr. Eric Mang, Executive Director, Members and External Relations, CFPC
Mr. Artem Safarov, Director, Health Policy and Government Relations, CFPC
Ms. Leslie Greenberg, Director, Member Engagement and Public Affairs, OCFP