



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

c/o County of Peterborough
470 Water Street
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3M3

February 27th, 2012

The Honourable Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews:

As you know, in 2008 the Ontario Long-Term Care (LTC) sector joined other Ontario health care organizations in meeting the enhanced data reporting requirements mandated by the Federal government through the implementation of the Ontario Health Reporting System (OHRS).

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) is very concerned about the resources required to support OHRS in addition to the other mandatory reporting requirements of your Ministry.

In our discussions it is clear that our current payroll systems do not have the ability to meet the enhanced OHRS reporting requirements. Employees must be grouped and reported in unit-producing or managed categories and we must also report worked versus benefit salaries for each group. In addition, other mandated Provincial reporting requirements such as the Ministry's staffing report require that we also provide this same information by job class and include both dollars and hours.

The Ministry's phased implementation project is providing all LTC Homes with a "hosted" version of Microsoft Great Plains version 10, inclusive of a Management Information System module, to support the new general ledger reporting requirements. Not provided, however, is a payroll solution to meet the detailed requirements. We are aware that other health sectors (Hospitals, Community Support, etc.) were provided with payroll solution but the LTC sector was not. No explanation was given for this decision.

In comparing data across the EOWC, we find that municipalities are investing on average 155 hours annually to meet all of the Ministry's mandatory reporting requirements. To meet the requirements of OHRS only, 75 hours annually are required based on the current requirements of the system. However, it is our understanding that further amendments will be forthcoming. Finally, we have also noted that in all municipalities there is only one individual trained to complete OHRS, a process that is detailed and complicated with information coming from multiple sources. This is not ideal but we cannot afford to train additional staff to complete these complex tasks.

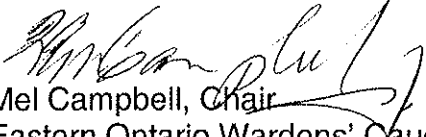
Although we understand the reasons for the Ministry's desire for an additional level of reporting detail from the facilities it funds, it is inconceivable that the request has been made without providing a workable software solution or the funding to purchase such a solution. Our current payroll systems do not have the ability to meet the enhanced OHRS reporting requirements. Some municipalities have investigated the cost to purchase a payroll software solution directly from a vendor; this added cost is beyond what our LTC Homes can afford.

In most municipalities the municipal taxpayer is already heavily subsidizing the operation of our LTC Homes and for us to fund a payroll solution to satisfy OHRS reporting requirements is unacceptable. We already have corporate payroll systems that meet our internal needs and meet the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing financial reporting requirements.

We are being placed in a very difficult situation by your Ministry. We are requesting that all LTC Homes be provided with funding equivalent to the funding provided for the software solution for payroll that hospitals and community support services use, which are funded by the MOHLTC. In this manner we can develop a solution which meets the Ministry requirements and is tailored to each facility's own needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Mel Campbell, Chair
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Cc: Don Young, Assistant Deputy Minister
Jeanette Munshaw, Director
Kristie Pratt, Manager, Health Data Branch