Dear Colleagues:

Based on recommendations from several reports since 2006, I am pleased to inform you that the ministry plans to transition the leadership and provincial funding of the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) program functions to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP). We recognize the very important role that the PHREDS have played in conducting applied public health research to support effective and efficient public health practice and in providing leadership in the support of public health professional education. The Public Health Division and our colleagues across the ministry would like to thank you for successfully overseeing the operations of the PHRED program to date and your contribution to the public health research and education agenda of this province.

OAHPP provides expert scientific and technical support relating to infection prevention and control; surveillance and epidemiology; health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention; environmental and occupational health; health emergency preparedness; and public health laboratory services to support health providers, the public health system and partner ministries in making informed decisions and taking informed action to improve the health and security of Ontarians. Public health research, knowledge exchange, education and professional development are fundamental components of OAHPP’s mandate.

We believe that aligning the PHRED program functions with OAHPP will reduce duplication of effort and will provide more comprehensive and effective programs to the field. OAHPP has already initiated the development of a new model for the functions of public health research, knowledge exchange, education and professional development, building on the successes of the existing PHRED program.

The ministry is collaborating with OAHPP to ensure a smooth transition of these functions with an anticipated transfer date in early 2011. We look forward to working with you on this transition and will continue to provide you with information as it becomes available. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sylvia Shedden at Sylvia.schedden@ontario.ca or 416 327-7391 or me.

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