

April 30, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: premier@ontario.ca; doug.ford@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

On behalf of the 1800+ members of Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO), we are writing to follow-up our letter dated April 27, 2020. We have heard loud and clear from our members, Therapeutic Recreation professionals working in hospitals, long-term care, rehabilitation, mental health and addictions, palliative care, day programs and social services, that they are extremely frustrated at the lack of recognition of their profession and their essential contributions as they work alongside their colleagues during this pandemic.

As frontline workers, Therapeutic Recreation (TR) professionals have placed a heightened focus on the social, emotional and mental well-being of their patients/residents/clients, most of whom are isolated from their loved ones. TRs acknowledge the importance of maintaining social connections and have worked diligently, going above and beyond, to ensure that these connections are maintained. They have willingly taken on additional duties outside their scope of practice, and like their colleagues, they have been exposed to increased risk by way of providing direct care for their patients/residents/clients during this time, whether they work directly with COVID-19 infected persons or not. They have had to be innovative and adaptive in delivering programs and treatment, transforming them to meet the restrictions around group congregation and keeping protection at the forefront. They have prioritized measures to stop the potential spread while at work. They have also been integral in keeping their patients/residents/clients connected to their families using a variety of online platforms, in some cases with limited access to Wi-Fi and devices. They have placed an emphasis on continuing as many services as possible to maintain overall wellness of those who are within the healthcare system with limited access to outdoor spaces, social connections and community resources both as inpatients and residents, and as outpatients practicing physical distancing in client's homes.

Mr. Premier, we are calling on you and your government to recognize and publicly acknowledge these dedicated and hard-working professionals, members of inter-collaborative healthcare teams. It is imperative that they be acknowledged for their contributions to Ontario's most vulnerable citizens.

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We welcome the opportunity to discuss ways to make this happen in an expedited manner.

Sincerely,



Sue Verrilli, R/TRO
President



Rozalyn Werner-Arcé, CAE
Executive Director

About TRO:

Established in 1999, Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO) is the only professional association that represents Therapeutic Recreation practitioners in the province. Our membership of more than 1800 includes practitioners, educators, and students. Our mission is to lead the TR profession through growth, advocacy, and innovation. We do this by offering quality membership services including professional development, information, networking, advocacy, and evidence-based research and best practices. We set the standard for excellence in the profession through our registration designations (R/TRO and R/TRO DIP).

Copy to:

Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, merrilee.fullerton@pc.ola.org,
Merrilee.fullerton@ontario.ca

Hon. Effie Triantafilopoulos, Parliamentary Assistant, Effie.triantafilopoulos@ontario.ca

Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant, robin.martin@pc.ola.org

Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, helen.angus@ontario.ca

James Wallace, Chief of Staff to the Premier (Acting), James.Wallace@ontario.ca

Blair Hains, Chief of Staff to the Minister, blair.hains@ontario.ca

Heather Watt, Chief of Staff to the Minister, h.watt@ontario.ca

Mason Saunders, Director of Stakeholder Relations, mason.saunders@ontario.ca

Laurel Brazill, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Laurel.Brazill@Ontario.ca

Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, melanie.fraser@ontario.ca

Mike Heenan, Assistant Deputy Minister, mike.heenan@ontario.ca

Phil Graham, Assistant Deputy Minister, phil.graham@ontario.ca

Michael Hillmer, Assistant Deputy Minister, michael.hillmer@ontario.ca

Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition, ahorwath-gp@ndp.on.ca

France Gélinas, Health Critic, fgelinas-gp@ndp.on.ca

John Fraser, Health and LTC Critic, Jfraser.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org