



October 14, 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lorri Amos
Nurse Manager - Central Miramichi
Community Health Centre (Doaktown, NB)

Tim Archer
Health Services Consultant
(Saskatoon, SK)

Dorothy Barnard
Board Chair - Dr. WB Kingston Memorial
Community Health Centre (L'Ardoise, NS)

Karen Cederwall
Executive Director - SWITCH Student-Run
Health Centre (Saskatoon, SK)

Nicole Chammartin
Executive Director - Klinik Community
Health (Winnipeg, MB)

Irene Clarence, CHAIR
Executive Director - Mid-Main Community
Health Centre (Vancouver, BC)

Shelley Heartwell, TREASURER
Chief Executive Officer - The Alex
Community Health Centre (Calgary, AB)

Michael Kelly
Executive Director - MFL Occupational
Health Centre (Winnipeg, MB)

Leading Eagle Man
Board Member - Saskatoon Community
Clinic (Saskatoon, SK)

Jane Moloney, PAST CHAIR
Health Services and Policy Consultant
(Ottawa, ON)

Esdras Ngenzi
Executive Director - ACFA / Clinique
francophone de Calgary (Calgary, AB)

Siffan Rahman
Ottawa Newcomer Health Centre Program
Coordinator - Somerset West Community
Health Centre (Ottawa, ON)

Lynne Raskin
Chief Executive Officer - South Riverdale
Community Health Centre (Toronto, ON)

Hersh Sehdev
Executive Director - Kingston Community
Health Centres (Kingston, ON)

Simone Thibault
Executive Director - Centretown
Community Health Centre (Ottawa, ON)

Honourable Peter Taptuna
**Premier of Nunavut, Minister of Executive
and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister
responsible for Seniors' Advocate, Minister
responsible for Immigration**
P.O. Box 1000 Station 200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Honourable George Hickes
**Minister of Health, Minister
responsible for Suicide
Prevention**
P.O. Box 1000 Station 200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

**RE: Improving health and healthcare in the Nunavut
through wise public investment**

Premier Taptuna and Minister Hickes,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (CACHC) we invite you to review important findings from the 2016 Canadian Survey of Community Health Centres at: www.cachc.ca/2016survey

Community Health Centres (CHCs) have been called "Medicare's best kept secret". They provide a triple bottom line solution: improved individual health, improved community and population health, and more cost-effective healthcare and social service systems.

CHCs are multi-sector health and healthcare organizations that operate through a comprehensive primary health care approach. Care teams at CHCs are comprised of family physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, counselors and other providers who wrap care around individual needs, ensuring the right care, by the right provider, at the right time. These care services are integrated with a range of health promotion programs, social services, and community health initiatives.

At a time when governments across Canada are looking to strengthen community infrastructure and provide transformative change through more cost-effective public services, we want to take this opportunity to re-introduce you to CHCs.

CHCs have been driving innovation in integrated health and social services across Canada ever since the first CHC (Mount Carmel Clinic) was established 90 years ago, in Winnipeg. They have the potential to address many of our country's most urgent and intersecting priorities, and this holds true for Nunavut.

Results from the 2016 Canadian CHCs Survey affirm that CHCs work across multiple sectors (healthcare, seniors services, housing, immigration and



The Canadian Association of Community Health Centres is the federal voice for Community Health Centres and community-oriented, people-centred primary health care across Canada.

340 College Street, Suite 500
Toronto, ON, M5T 3A9
T: 416.922.5694
F: 886.404.6040
E: info@cachc.ca
www.cachc.ca
Twitter: @CACHC_ACCSC

settlement, and other sectors), converting our fragmented health and social systems into more accessible and navigable services for people at the local level. What's more, they engage members of the community in identifying evolving needs and priorities in the community.

Not only does this integrated, community-centred approach optimize the various public services upon which Canadians rely, it improves health outcomes and helps build social capital in diverse communities across Canada.

Despite the critical role played by CHCs, results from the 2016 CHCs Survey also paint an alarming picture about serious operational and capital pressures faced by CHCs across the country.

Across Canada, 94% of existing CHCs report significant operational pressures impacting their ability to fulfill their mandate in serving Canadians. 69% of CHCs also report capital funding needs related to outstanding repairs and space enhancements. Moreover, very large numbers of communities throughout Canada still do not have access to a CHC.

CHCs can play a powerful role in helping the Government of Nunavut to fulfill its mandate in improving the health and wellbeing of Nunavut residents. Their team-based approach and organizational structure make them particularly effective at ensuring quality and continuity of care and support in rural and remote communities. We sincerely call for your collaboration in stewarding this process for Nunavut.

The need to shift attention and public investment toward the integrated CHC approach is one that must be embraced by all provinces, as well as the federal government. That is why we are strongly encouraging the federal government and provinces to ensure that funding for CHCs is embedded in the forthcoming federal/provincial/territorial Health Accord.

The Health Accord provides a fresh opportunity to advance a shared commitment to transformative change in health and social services across Canada. We respectfully urge the Government of Nunavut to echo this call for dedicated funding to the provinces for CHCs.

We appreciate that the provinces/territories and federal government have already made some progress in outlining initial priorities for the forthcoming Health Accord: home care, mental health services, improved prescription drug care, and 'innovation', for instance. We believe strongly that concurrent investment in CHCs across Canada is essential in order to ensure that implementation of strategies in



those areas results in services that are accessible and equitable for all, and that these services are connected to other sectors that impact health.

Over the coming months, our association and provincial counterparts will be providing governments across the country with further analysis and recommendations on improving the health and wellbeing of Canadians through Community Health Centres.

In the meantime, we would be pleased to discuss the value and potential of CHCs with you and members of your Cabinet. We would also be very honoured to arrange visits to existing CHCs so that you may see firsthand how CHCs are already improving accessibility, quality and impact of public services for individuals, families and communities.

Respectfully yours,

Irene Clarence
Executive Director, Mid-Main CHC
Chair, CACHC Board of Directors
Vancouver, BC

Scott Wolfe
Executive Director, CACHC
Toronto, ON
swolfe@cachc.ca

cc:

- Hon. Monica Ell-Kanayuk - Deputy Premier, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister responsible for Mines, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Development Corporation, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council
- Hon. George Kuksuk - Minister of Culture and Heritage, Minister of Languages, Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation
- Hon. Johnny Mike - Minister of Family Services, Minister responsible for Poverty Reduction, Minister responsible for Homelessness, Minister responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation
- Hon. Keith Peterson - Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Financial Management Board, Minister of Justice, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Liquor Commission, Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Minister responsible for the Human Rights Tribunal, Minister responsible for the Labour Standards Board, Minister responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
- Hon. Paul Quassa - Minister of Education, Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Government House Leader
- Hon. Joe Savikataaq - Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister of Environment, Minister of Energy, Nunavut Chair of Hudson Bay Roundtable