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The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins  
Minister of Health and Long Term Care  
Hepburn Block  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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January 19, 2016

Dear Minister Hoskins,

In light of your upcoming meeting with Health Ministers from across Canada, I am writing on behalf of 250,000 members of the Canadian Union Public Employees (CUPE) in Ontario, to express our encouragement to you to do whatever you can to help bring about a new Health Accord between the federal government and the provinces and territories.

CUPE is encouraged by the commitment of the new federal government to negotiate a new Health Accord. And, when Ministers of Health meet on January 20 and 21 in Vancouver, we hope that there will be cooperation among all levels of government to negotiate a new Health Accord to strengthen and expand our public Medicare system.

As you know, Canadians from coast to coast to coast cherish our public health care system, which represents our common values of equality and fairness. They want to see improvements to our public health care system but this can only happen if there is concerted effort by both levels of government to provide stable funding and expand the Medicare umbrella.

CUPE Ontario urges you as our Minister of Health, to support a new Health Accord that includes the following elements:

- Stable and adequate **multi-year** funding from the federal government, with annual increases established at a minimum 6%;
- A national continuing care program that extends the principles of the Canada Health Act to long term care, home and community care and establishes minimum staffing, **minimum hours of daily hands-on-care** and phasing out of for-profit delivery in this sector;
- **Clear commitment to a publically delivered, publically administered health care system with an end to private clinics**
- A national universal Pharmacare program that provides coverage to all Canadians through a national formulary, evidence-based evaluation of prescribing and protection from trade deals.

This meeting of Health Ministers presents an incredible opportunity to secure additional federal funding to strengthen and expand public health care programs in the province.

Our members – and indeed all Canadians -- will be eagerly watching the outcome of the Health Ministers' meeting.

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**Fred Hahn**  
President

**ONE STRONG VOICE**

**Candace Rennick**  
Secretary-Treasurer

We look forward to hearing back from you about the results of your meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Fred Hahn  
President, CUPE Ontario

Cc: M. Hancock, C. Fleury, F. Gélinas

CW/KJM: COPE491