



June 22, 2010

Mr. Brent Fraser
Director, Drug Program Services
and
Ms. Pamela McDonald
Senior Policy Advisor, Minister's Offices
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 2C4

via e-mail

Dear Brent and Pamela:

Re: Questions Regarding June 2010 Regulatory Amendments under ODBA and DIDFA

Thank you for taking time on June 16 to meet with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, the Independent Pharmacists of Ontario and the Canadian Association of Chain Drug Stores, to review the list of questions we provided to the Minister on June 10 related to the intent, scope and implementation of the changes announced by the Government on June 7.

In follow up to that meeting we sent a letter to you dated June 17 identifying that, while all the questions we asked are important, there were three high priority areas on which we required clarity by Monday, June 21:

- the submission and reimbursement of the transition fee
- the inventory washout period
- the cost to Operator claims

We also asked for confirmation of the timeline for the publication of the Question and Answer document that the ministry is producing.

At the time of writing, we have not had a response on these critical issues.

At last weekend's Ontario Pharmacists' Association Annual Conference, we heard loud and clear from frustrated pharmacists and owners across the province that they need clarity on the issues we have raised in order to move forward with a July 1 implementation of the new regulations.

Given the scope and magnitude of changes taking place in just seven more full working days, we ask that you either provide the answers as requested today, or consider a delay of implementation if more time is required by you prior to implementation to manage these important transition details.

...../cont'd

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DIDFA**

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We thank you for your prompt consideration of these issues, and also reiterate our request of June 10 for regular dialogue on transition issues over the coming months post implementation, through the formation and use of a joint ministry/pharmacy implementation committee.

Sincerely,



Ben Shenouda
President
Independent Pharmacists
of Ontario



Dennis Darby, P. Eng.
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Pharmacists'
Association



Nadine Saby
President & CEO
Canadian Association of
Chain Drug Stores

cc: The Honourable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Mr. Saäd Rafi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ms. Mary Lowe, Chief of Staff, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Ms. Helen Stevenson, Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Officer, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care