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MEMORANDUM TO: Community Care Access Centres
Health Care Organizations
District School Boards
Provincial and Demonstration Schools
Provincial School Authorities
Community Organizations Serving Children and Youth

FROM: Adalsteinn Brown
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health System Strategy Division
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Learning and Curriculum Division
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Aryeh Gitterman
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SUBJECT: School Health Support Services Review

We are writing to inform you about the upcoming review of School Health Support Services (SHSS).

SHSS are provided to children and youth in publicly-funded and private schools and to children and youth that are being home-schooled to assist them in pursuing their education. The program is governed by a mix of Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Ministry of Education legislation and policy. SHSS are administered by Community Care Access Centres (CCACs) and funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through the Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).

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The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is partnering with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Education to deliver on the government's commitment to review and determine how SHSS services should be funded and coordinated.

The goals of the review are to:

- Assess whether SHSS clients are able to access and are receiving high quality SHSS;
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the program's delivery and any areas in which it could be improved;
- Identify whether the strengths are aligned with the program's mandate;
- Investigate whether current client care models utilized by service provider agencies are consistent with research evidence and best practices; and
- Consider how SHSS can best serve students and their families and whether proposed changes will benefit the students who use the services.

We are pleased to announce the commencement of the review this fall and that Deloitte & Touche LLP (Deloitte) will conduct the review on behalf of the government and provide a final report by July 31, 2010. The ministries involved will oversee the project and to this end a joint ADM steering committee of all partner ministries has been established.

Deloitte will consult with key stakeholders across the health, education and community service sectors, including LHINs, community service providers, educators, students and families, provincial associations, physicians, and research experts, in order to gather feedback and recommendations for the purposes of conducting this review.

We are pleased to launch this important collaborative initiative and look forward to working with all of you as we make improvements for children and youth in the delivery of School Health Support Services.

Adalsteinn Brown | Grant Clarke | Aryeh Gitterman

c: LHIN CEOs
Judith Wright, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ron Sapsford, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Kevin Costante, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Susan Paetkau, Director, Health Program Policy and Standards Branch, Health System Strategy Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch, Ministry of Education
Susan Capling, Director, Specialized Services and Support Branch, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Ministry of Education Regional Managers
Ministry of Children and Youth Services Regional Directors
Margaret Mottershead, CEO, Ontario Association of Community Care Access Centres