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NEW EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR ONTARIO'S HEALTH WORK FORCE

The McGuinty government is making education and support available to a wider range of health professionals than any other province through a \$20.4 million investment this year.

Below is a description of the programs that will benefit from today's funding:

Health Professional Mentorship, Preceptorship and Leadership Initiative (MPLI)

The \$14.4 million Mentorship, Preceptorship and Leadership Initiative (MPLI) provides the necessary practice supports to Ontario's health professionals. The initiative is designed to foster interprofessional and intraprofessional coaching, mentorship and leadership opportunities by bringing various health professions together with the common goal of providing more comprehensive team-based care. The MPLI will support transfer of knowledge from experienced health care providers to those requiring enhanced knowledge and skills to deliver collaborative care. Mentorship eligibility is open to nurses, physicians, medical laboratory technologists, medical radiation technologists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

Interprofessional Health Education Innovation Fund (IHEIF)

Launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the \$5 million IHEIF reflects the value of different health professions working together in an interprofessional care setting to advance quality patient care.

New health care curricula will be developed to help encourage collaboration among different health professions working as a team to enhance patient care.

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will work with relevant stakeholders to develop innovative programs to assist health care providers in interprofessional/interdisciplinary development activities, skill enhancement and retraining throughout all stages of their careers.

Allied Health Education Fund (AHEF)

Allied health professionals are a diverse group of health professionals distinct from physicians and nurses who make up roughly half of the province's health work force. The AHEF supports allied health professionals who are pursuing continuing education. In 2006/07 the fund will offer \$1 million to support education and development opportunities for allied health professionals, with more opportunities in future years.

Media Contacts:

David Spencer
Minister's Office
416-327-4320

John Letherby
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

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