

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

Office of the Deputy Minister

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Dear Healthcare Providers

Today marks the first anniversary of the declaration of a state of emergency in Ontario because of the SARS outbreak. I want to take this opportunity to convey our condolences to the families of those healthcare workers who lost their lives to SARS. As well, our heartfelt thanks goes to the countless healthcare workers affected by SARS over the past year.

You gave the phrase “everyday heroism” meaning, character, and integrity during a very trying time. The unprecedented challenge of SARS placed a tremendous strain on healthcare workers across the province as you struggled and ultimately succeeded in combating this new disease. Thank you for working so selflessly and tirelessly to protect those in your care. The Ministry recognizes the sacrifices you made during the SARS outbreaks and unquestionably, we could not have succeeded in containing SARS without your support.

Be assured that the Ministry is committed to the continued improvement of patient and healthcare worker safety across the spectrum of our health system. The health of our people is our most precious resource and we are making, and will continue to make, every effort to ensure its protection.

Sincerely

*(original signed by)*

Phil Hassen  
Deputy Minister