

Ministry of Health

Primary Health Care Branch
Community, Mental Health and
Addictions, and French
Language Services Division

Director

1075 Bay Street, 9th Floor
Toronto ON M5S 2B1

Telephone: 416 212-0832
Toll-free: 1 866 766-0266
Facsimile: 416 890-1234

Ministère de la Santé

Direction des soins de santé primaires
Division des services communautaires, des
services de santé mentale et de lutte contre
les dépendances, et des services en français

Directrice

1075, rue Bay, 9e étage
Toronto ON M5S 2B1

Téléphone: 416 212-0832
San frais: 1 866 766-0266
Télécopieur: 416 890-1234



Sent via email

July 12, 2019

Ms. Kavita Mehta
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario
60 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 800
Toronto ON M4T 1N5

Dear Ms. Mehta:

Thank you for your letter dated May 31, 2019, regarding the 2019-20 budget adjustments for some member organizations of the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO).

As always, we appreciate AFHTO's commitment to working closely with the ministry to advance interprofessional primary care in Ontario. As the government is taking steps to improve the province's fiscal health while modernizing and transforming its own operations, it expects service delivery partners to do the same – to identify and realize opportunities for efficiencies, improved service delivery, and better client/user outcomes.

Each fiscal year, the ministry closely reviews the budgets of primary health care providers and recovers any unspent funds through annual financial reconciliations. A detailed review of all Family Health Team and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic expenditures over the last three years (2015-2018) demonstrates that the ministry continues to recover a significant amount of funds each year. As a result, the ministry adjusted the approved 2019-20 Annual Budgets of Family Health Teams and Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics that have continually under-spent in previous fiscal years.

Ms. Kavita Mehta

The ministry expects that the adjusted funding amount will have no impact on programs and services that provide direct patient care. All teams who require further information or clarification regarding their budget adjustments are encouraged to contact their assigned ministry representative who will work closely with them to ensure that non-HR budget categories and/or temporary vacancies resulting from natural turnover have been considered first so that impact on front-line care is minimized.

Any year-end savings or unspent funds (including HST rebates) are recovered through reconciliation, unless prior approval is granted by the ministry for one-time expenditures in accordance with the ministry's expenditure guidelines for FHTs and NPLCs, and are not intended to be saved as reserves.

Should there be a need for termination or wind-down, section 18.0 of the FHT Agreement outlines the terms and conditions, including a budget that allows for reasonable and orderly wind-down of the Service Plan.

The implementation of an integrated health care system is based on the voluntary participation of representatives of a wide range of health care delivery models, each with different funding and accountability arrangements. The ministry encourages partnerships and collaboration among all providers on the ground with a view to creating a system that puts patient needs first and supports local innovation. I would like to assure you that the ministry is fully committed to supporting interprofessional team-based primary care providers and the vital role they can play in the implementation of Ontario Health Teams and the move to a truly integrated health care system. We look forward to working closely with AFHTO and its members to find innovative and fiscally responsible solutions to the challenges our health care system faces today.

Once again, thank you and your member organizations for your ongoing commitment to quality interprofessional primary care in Ontario.

Sincerely,



Nadia Surani
A/Director