

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

Office of the Minister

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**Sessional Paper No. P-88**

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Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Ms. Jones (Tabled May 8, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Mr. Yakabuski (Tabled May 9, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Mr. Ouellette (Tabled May 10, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Mr. Ouellette (Tabled May 14, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Ms. Jones (Tabled May 15, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Mr. McDonell (Tabled May 16, 2012)  
Petition relating to ORNGE (Sessional Paper No. P-88) Mr. Chudleigh and Ms. Jones (Tabled May 17, 2012)

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**Response:**

The ministry is taking action on the Auditor General's recommendations to strengthen accountability, oversight and transparency at Ontario's air ambulance and critical care land ambulance service, Ornge.

On February 16, 2012, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care received a report from provincially directed forensic auditors. As a result of these findings, ministry officials asked the Ontario Provincial Police to investigate financial irregularities at Ornge, and turn over all information from the forensic audit to the OPP. We look forward to the results of this investigation.

We have amended our Performance Agreement with Ornge to provide for much stronger oversight powers. The amended Performance Agreement includes more detailed financial planning, monitoring, control and reporting obligations to increase Ornge's transparency and accountability.

The ministry will be undertaking a program evaluation this upcoming year to assess the operational demand, financial requirements and delivery model for Ornge's services.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts is currently undertaking a review into the Auditor General's findings at Ornge. This is an all-party committee of the legislature.

The ministry works with Ornge to ensure the provision of necessary, life-saving critical care services, according to legislation and standards, all within the available funding allocation. The ministry is committed, through fiscally responsible policies, to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Ontario health care system. The ministry is confident that the new leadership, the dedicated frontline paramedics, pilots and staff at Ornge are fully committed to providing the best possible care to Ontario patients.

*Deb Matthews*

Honourable Deb Matthews

