

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

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Sessional Paper No. P-196

Petition relating to designate Personal Support Workers as a Regulated Health Profession (Sessional Paper No. P-196) Mr. McDonell. (Tabled May 26, 2015)

Response:

The ministry values the contribution that Personal Support Workers (PSW) make to the health care system. Working on the front lines, they maintain and enhance the quality of care and quality of life of their patients and contribute to the wellbeing of our entire health care system.

Ontario is committed to building a high-quality PSW workforce that can meet the needs of patients, now and in the future. As part of this commitment, the province is currently examining options to support a competent and safe PSW workforce. Your petition will be taken into consideration as the ministry considers approaches to support a competent and safe PSW workforce.

To support more standardized learning outcomes for these individuals across the province, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, with support from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, has developed a common educational standard for PSW educational programs (see <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/audiences/colleges/progstan/health/supwork.html>).

Some of our current initiatives include:

- A new provincial educational standard for PSWs, released by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities in September 2014,;
- The PSW Workforce Stabilization Strategy, which supports individuals providing publicly-funded personal support services in the home and community care sector through, for example, improved wages;
- The PSW Training Fund, which provides up to \$10 million annually to home and community care agencies to support PSW certification and enhanced education.

Our goal is to deliver health care that puts individuals at the centre of the system, responds to their needs and makes it easier for providers to coordinate care—so that it's there for everyone who needs it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Hoskins'.

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins