

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

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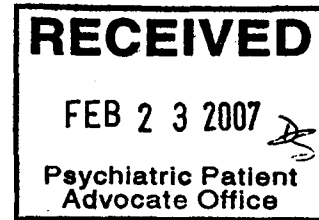
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Ontario

FEB 21 2007



Mr. David Simpson
Director (A)
Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office
802-55 St. Clair Avenue West
PO Box 28
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 2Y7

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for your letter of support for the Ontario Expert Panel on Standards of Care for the Administration of Psychotropic Drugs to Children and Youth in Licensed Residential Settings, as well as for providing information on the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office (PPAO).

The Ontario government recognizes that children living in residential settings often come from a variety of backgrounds and face a number of issues such as developmental and physical challenges, behavioural difficulties, psychiatric disorders and substance abuse problems. Given these challenges, we are confident that the expert panel will carry out pioneering work that will benefit many of Ontario's most vulnerable young people.

Over the next year, the panel will develop standards of care for the administration of psychotropic drugs to children and youth receiving residential services, provide advice on training for frontline staff and provide recommendations for the implementation and enforcement of standards.

In addition to this mandate, the panel will also provide my ministry with a final summative report highlighting its main findings and recommendations. In this report, the panel may wish to explore recommendations mentioned in your letter pertaining to the reliance of psychotropic medications and the long-term impact that these drugs may have on a child's development and transition into adulthood.

A key component of the panel is its prerogative to call upon expert guests for information and advice on specific areas of expertise that fall outside the jurisdiction of panel members participating on the panel. This may include substitute decision-making and rights advice.

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The work of the panel will greatly benefit from the depth of knowledge the PPAO offers on substitute decision-making and rights advice. I have provided the panel's chair, Glenn Thompson, with your letter of encouragement and conveyed the PPAO's willingness to support the panel in accomplishing its mandate.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Anne Chambers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mary Anne Chambers
Minister

c: Mr. Glenn Thompson, Chair, Ontario Expert Panel on Standards of Care for the Administration of Psychotropic Drugs to Children and Youth in Licensed Residential Settings