

July 9, 2010

Hon. Deb Matthews  
Minister of Health and Long-term Care  
80 Grosvenor Street  
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

**RE: Resident Loan Interest Relief Program: Implementation Delays**

Dear Minister Matthews,

The 2008 Physicians Services Agreement contained a commitment to provide eligible residents with financial assistance during their professional development. This was an important initiative and will go a long way to show our future physicians that Ontario is dedicated to the services they provide, and encourage them to practice within the province.

We have learned through a recent update from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) that the *Resident Loan Interest Relief Program (RLIRP)* has once again been delayed. We appreciate the hard work that is going into the implementation process, but we feel that a solution should be addressed quickly - as implementation was expected July 2009.

An update on this program was provided July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Physician Services Committee meeting. We understand that the MOHLTC and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) have been working hard to gain ground in the procurement process and the OMA was reassured that this is moving along quickly.

We hope that the outstanding issues will be resolved in the coming weeks as we have heard from many Residents who are frustrated with the delays. We look forward to having the process implemented in time for the residents who graduated from medical school this year and are required to begin paying back their loans in the fall.

We recognize the hard work that has been completed thus far and realize that there have been a number of unexpected implementation issues. Thank you for taking the time to address this matter and we would be happy to discuss this further.

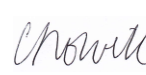
Sincerely,



Mark MacLeod, MD FRCSC  
President  
Ontario Medical Association



Ceara McNeil, MD, CCFP  
President  
PAIRO



Christina Nowik & Kyle Cullingham  
Co-Chairs  
Ontario Medical Students Association

*CC: Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Training, Colleges and University*