

Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Ministère des Affaires autochtones

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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3007MC-2007-194

**MAR 17 2008**

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**MAR 19 2008**

**aIPHa**

Ms. Linda Stewart  
Executive Director  
aIPHa  
425 University Avenue, Suite 502  
Toronto ON M5G 1T6

Dear Ms. Stewart:

Thank you for your letter requesting a meeting to discuss questions of public health, governance and jurisdiction.

The federal government has a significant role to play in the establishment of a public health framework for First Nations in Ontario. The provincial government will work to establish clearer roles and responsibilities in keeping with the federal government's special relationship with Aboriginal peoples. The province is committed to working with the federal government to foster a more constructive and co-operative relationship on Aboriginal matters. As you may know, the federal government recently announced funding for a three-year project aimed at the creation of a First Nations public health framework. I understand that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is working in partnership with Health Canada and the Chiefs of Ontario on this important initiative.

I have asked Alison Pilla, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Relationships, to meet with you on my behalf. She can be reached at 416-212-2302.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Bryant".

Michael Bryant  
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

c: Premier Dalton McGuinty  
The Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Alison Pilla, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Relationships, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs