

April 1, 2015

Sent via email from – SATaskforce@ontario.ca

Dear Patient:

I'm writing to you today because I'm leading the minister's task force on preventing all forms of sexual abuse of patients, and hearing from patients who have experienced the complaint process at one or more health profession regulatory colleges (in the past 15 years) is crucial to the mandate given to us by Ontario's health minister.

This invitation is coming to you via a college because our Task Force asked college registrars to help notify patients (with appropriate attention to privacy concerns) who have been involved in some way with regulatory health college complaint processes. It is very important that we hear from you directly and in confidence (if you choose a private hearing).

Here's some background information on this Task Force:

On December 16, 2014, Dr. Eric Hoskins, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, appointed a task force to review legislation designed to prevent and deal with sexual abuse of patients by regulated health professionals. The task force is led by human rights lawyer, Prof. Marilou McPhedran. Educator and Registered Nurse, Ms. Sheila Macdonald, is also a member of the task force.

As a sexual abuse (or sexual impropriety) complainant to a health regulatory college, the Task Force has prioritized hearing your perspective, based on your personal experiences. Sheila and I hope you will speak with us in the near future.

To assist with your consideration of this invitation, it may be helpful for you to know that the health minister has asked the task force to provide advice, including on:

- Ways to further encourage and support patients who report incidents of sexual abuse to health regulatory colleges.
- Support tools for patients who may have been sexually abused by a regulated health professional.
- The current definition of sexual abuse contained in the legislation.
- The disciplinary orders that may be imposed by health regulatory colleges against their members who have been found to have sexually abused a patient.
- Mandatory reporting requirements with respect to the sexual abuse of patients by regulated health professionals.
- Other aspects of college discipline proceedings and other college processes.

Please share your views with the Task Force. Your privacy and safety will be respected.

The Task Force will be holding a consultation on Monday April 13 at the Marriott Courtyard Toronto Downtown, 475 Yonge St., Toronto at 10:00 a.m. You can choose a public or private hearing with the task force by making an appointment through SATaskForce@ontario.ca.

There is another consultation planned for May 2015. Time for this Task Force is quite limited.

Please consider participating. If there are barriers to your participation such as travel or other costs involved

**Minister's Task Force on the Prevention of the Sexual Abuse of Patients and the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*
(Sexual Abuse Task Force)**

in coming to meet with us, please discuss your requirements for participation with the Task Force Coordinator, Laura Niles, who can be reached through SATaskForce@ontario.ca.

If you have any concerns about participating that you would prefer to discuss with me directly, please contact me via marilou.mcphedran@ontario.ca or ask Ms. Niles to confirm a time and date to speak with me.

Please remember: hearing from you is a priority and presentations to the Task Force are by appointment.

For more information, contact the Task Force at SATaskforce@ontario.ca or at 1-844-821-6151.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilou McPhedran". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marilou McPhedran