

CITIZENS' COUNCIL

May 20, 2008

Mandate of the Citizens' Council

Bill 102, the *Transparent Drug System for Patients Act*, passed in June 2006, set out the establishment of a Citizens' Council in legislation. The Act outlines the Council's mandate to ensure patient involvement in the development of drug and health policy.

The Council will discuss and provide opinions about questions or topics that will inform the government's priorities around drug policy. After each meeting, it will make a report to the Executive Officer of the Ontario Public Drug Programs and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Council

The Council will be composed of 25 Ontarians, representing a cross-section of ages, cultures and regions of the province. They will be expected to express their opinions as members of the public and not represent the view of any specific interest group, or organization. Members will be paid for their participation.

Council members will serve a three-year term, with one-third stepping down every year. The initial Council members will be appointed for terms of two, three, or four years to allow for staggered replacement. The Chair will be appointed by the Minister.

Council Meetings

There will be approximately two Council meetings per year, each for a maximum of three days. Prior to each meeting, the ministry will provide background information on the question or topic to be discussed. With the input of an expert advisory group, the Executive Officer will decide on the question or topic to be discussed by the Council.

As a part of the government's commitment to transparency, all meeting agendas, and the Council's report will be publicly available.

Reporting and Evaluation

After every meeting, the Citizens' Council will provide a written report within sixty days to the Executive Officer of the Ontario Public Drug Programs and to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

The Executive Officer is committed to responding publicly to the Council's report within 30 days, including explaining what will happen as a result of the Council's input. To evaluate the Council, the ministry will contract a third-party agency to conduct evaluations in the following areas: the process to develop questions; the orientation program; and the Citizens' Council meetings.