

**Ministry of Children
and Youth Services**

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March 27, 2015



A Message from the Minister

As Ontario's Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, I would like to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered here today. Although I am unable to be with you today, I feel very close. That is because I know that we both are focused on the health and happiness of women and children.

Creating effective health care solutions is complex. The work requires many hands and diverse perspectives. We take a shared approach here at Queen's Park and in our work across the province. You've seen this in the partnerships you have with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through your local LHIN, as well as with the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

I am gratified to see you similarly demonstrate the value of collaboration by bringing together the Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing, B'saanibamaadsiwin Aboriginal Mental Health Services and the Thunder Bay Counselling Centre. Sharing the different expertise and cultural understanding of each organization is what will enable the second phase of the Post-Partum Mood Disorder Strategy to be truly effective.

Postpartum mood disorder affects thousands all across Ontario. It is an equal opportunity disorder, affecting mothers, and fathers, regardless of income, race or home town. One way to combat this disorder is by strengthening support networks, just as you are doing for the people you serve. Not only are you helping parents access needed supports, you are doing so in ways that are culturally appropriate, grounded in evidence and reflect best practices.

I would like to thank everyone gathered here today for their sustained commitment to the parents, families, children and youth of Ontario. You are making a positive difference.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and rewarding event this evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy MacCharles".

Tracy MacCharles
Minister