

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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**Northeastern Ontario's Postpartum Mood Disorder Project
Phase 2 Launch**

March 27, 2015

I'm pleased to send you congratulations and best wishes on the launch of the next phase of the Postpartum Mood Disorder Project.

My sincere thanks go to the Northeast LHIN for its leadership in bringing together so many vital community partners to discuss how to address the challenges faced by all those affected by postpartum mood disorder. The benefits of your important work to women, children and families are incalculable.

As a physician, I understand the enormous burden of untreated postpartum mood disorder on individuals, their families, our communities and our health care system. As a father myself, I have experienced the joy of having a new baby as well as the overwhelming stress that such a huge change can bring. Support for parents and their families after childbirth is critical, as any parent, regardless of economic status, age or ethnicity, can be affected by mental health difficulties at this challenging point in life.

As part of the next phase of Ontario's mental health strategy, *Open Minds, Healthy Minds*, our government is working to improve access to mental health services, measure outcomes so that we can improve the quality of services that are currently available, and invest in local mental health programs, because communities understand local needs best.

You can be very proud in knowing that your work is having a positive impact on the lives of women, children and their families and is truly an example of putting people and patients first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins".

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister