

## 3.4 Strike a Health Cabinet to improve information-sharing and break down budget siloes between Ministries

### KEY MESSAGES:

- The OCC is calling on the newly elected government to implement a Health Cabinet to improve information-sharing and break down budget siloes between relevant ministries.
- Currently, the Province does not coordinate investment between the multiple ministries whose portfolios impact the health and well-being of Ontarians.
- A Health Cabinet would be a tool to help the government capture outcomes of investments, capturing the value of a spend, not merely the cost. Currently, the government spends approximately \$52 billion on the health care system.

The OCC advocates for a health care system that is value-based, in which we measure the outcomes of interventions rather than dollars spent or patients served. However, individual health outcomes are influenced by, and likewise impact, countless socio-economic factors beyond the scope of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Without strategic and budgetary co-ordination between the multiple ministries whose portfolios affect Ontarians' health, the government is unable to accurately capture and assess the impact of its investments. These ministries should all have a view to policymaking that reflects their interaction with the health care system, and each should possess the willingness to demonstrate how a broader definition of value can be measured and its benefits captured.

In 1995, the governor of Maine created a "Children's Cabinet" in which all government departments with responsibility for children's services came together to coordinate their activities. The initiative was so successful that it was made permanent in 2001<sup>1</sup> and today there are more than 16 Children's Cabinets across the United States.<sup>2</sup> An Ontario Health Cabinet would include representatives from the Ministries of

Health & Long-Term Care, Finance, Community & Social Services, Community Safety & Correctional Services, Labour, Housing, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation, Government & Consumer Services, Research, Innovation & Science, Community Safety & Correctional Services, Seniors' Affairs, and the Treasury Board coming together to determine how to measure their spending in a way that captures the value of their activities, reducing duplication and waste. Like some Children's Cabinets, the Ontario Health Cabinet could also include private sector stakeholders, in order to take advantage of the knowledge and capacity of non-government actors in the health sector.

The outcome of a Health Cabinet would be a system in which all facets of Ontarians' health needs are considered as parts of a whole, rather than problems to be solved in siloes. Information-sharing would ensure that Ministerial mandates and strategies are aligned and work in co-ordination. Finally, the outcomes of one Ministry's investment can be measured by any others that may be impacted, ensuring the government captures the value of a spend, not merely the cost.

1 Sterling, Lauren. "Maine Governor's Children's Cabinet". Children's Cabinet Network. <http://www.maine.gov/legis/opla/childcabppt.pdf>

2 Segal, Ann, Lisa Grossman and Anna Lovejoy. "A Governor's Guide to Children's Cabinets". National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. <http://earlysuccess.org/sites/default/files/AESBridgingPaper6.pdf>