



## **OPA Statement on the Government’s Healthcare Worker Pandemic Pay Policy**

While OPA supports the move to provide additional pay for certain healthcare workers who are paid as public employees, we are asking that the Ontario government reconsiders the exclusion of publicly-paid pharmacy professionals – those who work in hospitals right across the province. As the government has previously recognized all pharmacy professionals and pharmacies working in the community, hospitals, long-term care homes and primary care practices as essential healthcare workers and health centres, respectively, it is imperative for those professionals who are publicly funded to be included in this pandemic payment policy.

OPA would also like to once again recognize and applaud the dedication of the many pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in community and long-term care practice settings who are privately employed and are therefore ineligible for the publicly paid pandemic wage increase policy. Your hard work and personal sacrifices to ensure and protect continuity of care are very much appreciated by your patients and the Association. Finally, OPA reminds all pharmacy professionals that notwithstanding visibility of OPA messaging on this matter in social media, we join the efforts of many other healthcare professional associations who are seeking additional clarity on the policy and are working behind the scenes through our communications with the government.