
News Release/ Communiqué

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Council Hosts Ethnocultural Roundtable

Brampton, ON – The need to focus on culturally sensitive health care and health promotion are the two themes that came out loud and clear during the Ontario Health Quality Council’s roundtable discussion on the quality of health care delivery for people of different ethnocultural backgrounds.

“As a follow up to our first report, the Council is interested in learning about the experiences that people from different backgrounds have in trying to access the health care they need,” said Ray Hession, Chair, Ontario Health Quality Council. “The Council is looking for examples of where the system is working well and where there is need for improvement.”

Participants shared their personal experiences with the health care system highlighting the challenges surrounding culturally sensitive issues such as language, diet and different approaches to health care.

Participants felt that it was important to empower and educate people of different ethnocultural backgrounds with health information and provide them with the tools to help them and their communities lead healthy lifestyles. At the same time, participants also felt it was important for providers to understand the cultural needs of different communities.

“It was very important for the Council to hear directly from people of different ethnocultural backgrounds about their experiences with the health care system,” added Hession. “It is obvious from today’s discussion that while everyone recognizes the strengths of Ontario’s health care system there is room for improvement.”

The Ontario Health Quality Council is an independent agency funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Council reports directly to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services, health human resources in publicly funded health services, consumer and population health status, and health system outcomes.

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