

Report from Collaboration Table Thursday, March 19, 2020

Report from Collaboration Table Meeting held Thursday, March 19, 2020

- The ministry has established a Collaboration Table comprising stakeholder associations and labour unions representing sectors across the continuum of care to provide strategic advice to the provincial Command Table.
- The Collaboration Table meets weekly with representatives from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Skills Development and Trade, and the Ministry of Senior Affairs and Accessibility to share updates, discuss issues and concerns and identify solutions.

Key points

- The most common concern raised by stakeholders has been frontline access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment and supplies.
 - The Ministry is aggressively pursuing all opportunities and channels to secure additional PPE and equipment to support front line workers and patients, including working with the Federal government and industry.
- In response to the issues discussed at the Collaboration Table today (March 19), the ministry is working with our partners to provide:
 - Further clarification and guidance on what are considered essential services in health care settings and in the community
 - Guidance on the prioritization of testing for health care workers
 - Child care supports for health care workers, child welfare workers and mental health providers due to school closures
 - Guidance needed on suspending seniors day programs in long-term care homes and the community
 - Enhanced supports to seniors and other vulnerable and at-risk populations (e.g., Indigenous, child welfare, those with addictions)
 - Greater flexibility in staffing for direct care settings (e.g., hospitals and long-term care homes).
 - Opportunity to allow for students in their last year of training for clinical work to add capacity to provide some health care services.

Next steps

- The ministry is examining the suggestions, concerns and comments brought forward by stakeholders, actioning each item across government and will be tracking progress. As issues are analyzed relevant items will be brought forward to the Command Table for discussion, and we will report back to the Collaboration Table on progress.