Ministry of Colleges and Universities

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I would like to congratulate the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) for its many noteworthy achievements this year.

OICR's commitment to facilitating collaboration with FACIT, patient groups and OICR's worldwide network of researchers and partners, has laid the groundwork for future discoveries in cancer research. Thanks to these collaborations and partnerships, the institute is making great progress in achieving its mission of translating and accelerating cancer research discoveries to benefit patients around the world and strengthening our province's economy.

The important work that is being done by OICR and its partners has led to many new scientific discoveries that are bringing new treatments and medications to cancer patients in Ontario. A great example is <u>OICR's Window-of-Opportunity Network</u>, which has launched five clinical trials that provide cancer patients early access to cutting-edge therapies, while allowing researchers to study their effect on tumours after they are removed.

I would also like to acknowledge OICR for its commitment to integrating patients' voices in its research. This year, the institute has made major strides in growing its patient community through its Patient and Family Advisory Council and including patient partners in the review of funding requests for several major OICR programs. By increasing patient involvement in the institute's research and programs, OICR is gaining important insights that will ultimately lead to improved research outcomes and better patient care in the years to come.

Thanks to OICR's vision and efforts, Ontario continues to be one of the world's leaders in cancer research. Congratulations once again on your achievements this year, which are helping Ontario transform the future of cancer care, so Ontarians can lead longer and healthier lives.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jill Dunlop

Minister of Colleges and Universities