

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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**Ministère de la Santé
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It is my great pleasure to welcome experts from around the Globe to the Workshop on Adverse Response Monitoring in Ottawa, which is sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). I regret I cannot be with you during your meetings, but please do know that I think this kind of work is essential, even critical, to the future success of Ontario's health care system.

As you know, providing treatment to patients with chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, represents a significant component of our health care budget. Often, these patients turn to emergency rooms for care when troubles arise. My government is now tackling this issue, trying to assist Ontarians in better managing these kinds of diseases at the front end, so we can free up waits in Emergency Rooms for those who really need it. We are currently working on the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management plan and developing a Diabetes Strategy so Ontarians can live longer and healthier lives. The Strategy will include a mix of prevention, technology, personal planning and access to specialized resources and health professionals.

Chronic disease patients can face regular health risks from taking prescribed medications, especially adverse reactions, some of which can be fatal. Newer technologies can reduce such reactions and thus save lives. And a made-in-Ontario solution is both welcome and encouraged.

Knowing that IEEE, the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology, is for the first time bringing together a multidisciplinary team from diverse fields in academia, health care and the private sector, to look for solutions to these problems is significant. I applaud your work and wish you much success with the workshop and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George Smitherman'.

George Smitherman,
Deputy Premier, Minister