December 9, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the proposal for a PhD in Nursing program to be delivered by the School of Nursing at York University. The profession of nursing constitutes the largest group of health care professionals in Canada. While the profession is old, and sizable, the number of nurses who are doctoral preparation very small; the need for evidence to support nursing practice is great and the number of nurses with the knowledge and skills to do the needed research is small. This program will contribute health care by preparing nurses with the needed skills to do clinical research and to develop knowledge that will benefit the entire community.

I see this program as meeting an important need for nurses seeking doctoral education in nursing. Nurses considering doctoral studies will have more choices available to them as they seek to move their careers forward. This proposed program will offer a great opportunity and the students will benefit from a faculty well known for their graduate education and research strengths in three key areas: a) health for persons and communities, b) healthcare services and systems and c) education in nursing. At CAMH (Center for Addiction & Mental Health) we are committed to further development of our nursing workforce via graduate and postgraduate studies and mentorship. Over the past three years we have had a significant increase in the number of completing graduate education. Increased opportunity for doctoral education will further strengthen our ability to achieve our objectives.

York University School of Nursing is known for its focus on caring and care, and for generating clinically useful research. Members of the faculty have a variety of areas of expertise that will benefit students in the program. In turn, this will benefit the nursing profession and ultimately the public. The school is uniquely situated in the Faculty of Health and known with opportunities for reciprocal interdisciplinary collaborations around health, health care and policy research. Faculty also have research strengths in areas of healthy aging, complex chronic illness, mental health, women’s health, child and youth health, community health, the social determinants of health, and health systems reform. These areas are well aligned with the priorities for CAMH. We are committed to developing a practice research focus in the area of complex mental illness, children and youth mental health, and care transitions.
I look forward to the establishment of York University School of Nursing PhD program. I am confident that the program will produce critically needed nurse academics, scholars, and researchers to teach nursing students and undertake research that is relevant to the increasingly diverse Canadian population.

Sincerely,

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