

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

**Ministère de la Santé
et des Soins de longue durée**



**Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate and Direct Services Division**

**Sous-ministre adjointe
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Ms. Pamela Branch
President
CAIDC/RCCDI
260 St-Patrick, Suite 101
Ottawa ON K1N 5K5

Dear Ms. Branch:

I am responding to your letter to the Honourable George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, regarding the requirements for reinstating access to provincial health insurance plans following a person's return from an overseas assignment.

You have suggested that the 90-day waiting period for OHIP eligibility be waived for those who may have to give up their residency when they go to work out of the country.

For those individuals who cannot meet the physical presence requirements due to employment, current legislation does allow the ministry to provide eligibility under certain conditions, such as when a person makes his or her permanent and principal home in Ontario, but because of his/her employment is required to travel frequently out of Ontario. These individuals may be eligible for health coverage as a mobile worker.

Additionally, an insured person (and his/her spouse and dependant children) may be eligible for continuous OHIP eligibility while a full-time active employee of a Canadian or foreign-based employer for a period of up to five years, provided he or she (and the spouse and children) has been present in Ontario for 153 days in each of two consecutive 12-month periods immediately before the date of departure. An insured person (and his/her spouse and children) is eligible for an unlimited number of five-year employment absences provided the requirement to be ordinarily resident for two consecutive years immediately prior to departure is met between the absences.

If an individual is eligible for either a mobile worker designation or an employment absence, upon their return to Ontario (within 212 days at the end of the absence for employment purposes), he/she would be eligible for continuous OHIP eligibility, and would not be subject to the three-month waiting period.

I trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Ogram", written over a faint circular stamp.

Dawn Ogram
Assistant Deputy Minister