

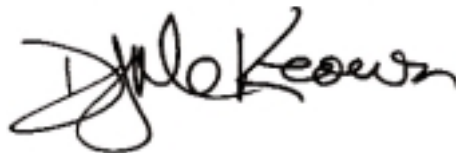
## *Message from the Medical Officer of Health*

**T**he Region of Peel is a diverse community of nearly one million people, and is one of the largest public health regions in Canada. The residents of Peel enjoy relatively good health by provincial and national standards — but there are still many health challenges to address, now and for the future.

The Region of Peel works with individuals and organizations in the public and private sectors to prevent illness and promote good health. Together we strive to make Peel the healthiest community in Canada.

The 2001 State of the Region's Health report is the first of a series of annual reports which will highlight important health issues and trends in Peel. This year, the report focuses on the relationship between health and wealth, and describes significant trends in the occurrence of tobacco-related diseases, motor vehicle accidents, and obesity. Some of these trends are encouraging — others indicate a threat to health which needs to be addressed. All of the issues in this report are important parts of the health landscape of the Region of Peel.

Health is a vital resource for everyday living, and a necessary part of a successful community. The information in this report is intended to help chart a course to better health for all of the residents of Peel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McKeown', with a stylized, looping initial 'D'.

David McKeown, MDCM, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health