

Thank you for your letter and your advocacy on behalf of people with ADHD.

People with disabilities in Ontario still face considerable barriers to access to academic, professional, and economic opportunities. One of the core values of an Ontario Liberal government will be to establish an equitable and accessible province that offers a fair chance to everyone and adequate accommodation to anyone who needs it.

Our government will work with people with ADHD, caregivers, healthcare service providers, and other stakeholders to ensure adequate access to mental health resources and necessary funding. We will invest \$3 billion over 4 years to expand mental healthcare services, especially in underserved, remote, and rural areas. We will also train and hire 3,000 new mental health professionals as well as recruit 5,000 special education workers for schools. These investments will significantly expand access to high-quality mental health services for everyone including people with ADHD.

We will also ensure the appropriate level of and periodic training for healthcare professionals to prevent misdiagnosis of ADHD so that people with ADHD can access services and resources early helping them avoid further negative impacts on their health that delayed treatment may cause.

An Ontario Liberal government will be committed to making access to mental healthcare universal which is why we will cover the cost of mental health services through our portable benefits plan as well as require workplace private health insurance providers to cover it in their regular plans. Our investments in the mental healthcare sector, recruitment of additional mental healthcare professionals, and appropriate coverage of the cost will make treatments and care more accessible for everyone in this province. Our government will support caregivers by making the Ontario Caregiver Tax Credit refundable, tax-free, and paid out throughout the year and enhancing access to support programs and tools for them.

We will work with teachers, school boards and other education stakeholders to undertake a comprehensive reform of special education and the needs of students with disabilities – including the Individual Education Plan. We will further ensure that as students enter into different phases of their academic and personal lives, they can get access to the required services to experience a smooth transition. Our plan to reconvene the Education Partnership Table will provide stakeholders with an avenue to share best practices and recommendations to make Ontario's public education system more accessible for students with disabilities. We will appoint a stand-alone Minister for disability issues and include accessibility commitments in government mandate letters.

Ontario Liberal Party strongly believes in economic dignity. However, without equitable access to education and employment opportunities economic dignity can hardly be achieved. Therefore, we'll strengthen existing Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards and enact new standards, particularly for education and healthcare. We will also increase the frequency of on-site AODA inspections and regularly report on compliance. Our government will provide advanced training on accommodation and accessibility for people with disability so that educators, employers, policymakers, and other stakeholders can be aware of the barriers that people with disabilities including people with ADHD face as well as how they can be appropriately accommodated. Where possible and necessary, we will require this training to be mandatory and to be offered periodically. Our government will strengthen relevant labor laws to prevent discrimination against people with disabilities and to provide workers with opportunities to seek remedies in the event of a breach of law.

We look forward to working with your team and other stakeholders to build an equitable, prosperous and accessible Ontario.

Steven Del Duca
Leader
Ontario Liberal Party