

ADHD in Mental Health

Questions

- 1. Would you commit to ensuring that ADHD is recognized within Ontario mental health, included in government working groups, and approved for mental health funding?**

Yes, we are committed to bringing mental health care into the public healthcare system. From a young age, people need access to mental health supports that will keep them on track to thrive. Our plan for universal basic mental health will bring timely and appropriate counselling to Ontario families at no additional cost.

- 2. Would you commit to increased training in ADHD for family physicians and professionals working in mental health, to reduce misdiagnosis, and wait times for assessment and treatment?**

Yes, our mental health plan will work with family physicians, nurses, psychologists, social workers and other healthcare workers to improve access to professional development opportunities to develop their knowledge and experience related to mental health care. We plan to create a standalone organization, Mental Health and Addictions Ontario, to establish best practices and standard protocols using evidence-based assessments and treatments.

- 3. Would you commit to ensuring that all appropriate treatments covered for other mental health disorders are also covered for ADHD, including caregiver and patient training?**

Yes, we will increase funding to public health units and community health centres to bring mental health supports closer to home. Increased budgets for public health units will allow for the focus to return to education, prevention, and community-based management. We will bring public health education programs back into community settings and schools, including caregiver and patient training.

ADHD in Education

Questions

1. Would you commit to improving the current Ministry of Education Special Education System by implementing the recommended Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K-12) education standards?

An NDP government will overhaul the existing education funding formula with a comprehensive review to be completed within one year. As part of our review of the funding formula, we are committed to working with stakeholders to implement recommendations from the K-12 Education Standards Development Committee.

New Democrats are also committed to increasing special education funding. We will base special education funding on actual needs with timely needs assessments, to ensure that students are equitably supported and learning gaps are closed.

2. Would you commit to ensuring that students with ADHD have the same guarantees to special education resources and supports for their disability as do students with neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism and learning disabilities?

An NDP government will ensure that as part of our comprehensive review of the funding formula, we review current special education resources and supports. We know that more resources are needed and are committed to ensuring that funding and resources are provided to students on an equitable basis.

3. Would you commit to ensuring that educators in Ontario are trained in recognizing ADHD impairments, understanding how ADHD impairs learning, and implementing appropriate teaching strategies and accommodations for students with ADHD?

Yes, New Democrats are committed to ensuring that educators receive training on recognizing ADHD impairments, how it affects learning, and strategies and accommodations that can improve the learning experience for students with ADHD.

ADHD in the Workplace **Questions**

1. **Since the OHRC recognizes ADHD as a disability, would you commit to ensuring that employers are made aware that they must accommodate for ADHD impairments?**

Yes, we will promote public health education related to ADHD. Early and accessible public education can dismantle stigma and help people seek support sooner. Conversations about accessibility and necessary accommodations need to happen early on to reduce barriers to employment. Better public education and awareness programs will help employers develop protocols to improve accessibility in their workplace.

2. **Would you commit to ensuring that funding for both employee and employer training on ADHD and appropriate workplace accommodations is made available?**

We will create Mental Health and Addictions Ontario to coordinate between Ministries to ensure supports for employers and employees are available. MHAO will work with local leaders and sector experts to establish training programs and proper accommodations. We will work with Ontario's employers to ensure everyone has access to the accommodations they need to be successful at work.

3. **Would you commit to reviewing the possibility of screening for adult ADHD in provincial employment training programs?**

Yes, we are committed to reviewing this possibility.

