

May 17, 2018

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
158 Pearl Street, Toronto, ON M5H 1L3

Dear Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario:

Thank you for writing to me and for sharing your concerns about health care in Ontario.

There is a crisis in our health care system: our hospitals are being pushed to the breaking point and patients are receiving care in hallways. One of the main reasons for hospital overcrowding and long waiting lists is the large number of Alternative Level of Care (ALC) patients – those whose conditions should not necessitate hospital stays, but remain in hospital because there is not a more appropriate care setting or provider available. While the Liberals have created this problem by failing to invest in long-term care and firing 1,600 nurses across the province, we will do the opposite.

A Doug Ford Ontario PC Government will cut hospital wait times and end hallway medicine. We will do this by building 15,000 long-term care beds in five years and 30,000 beds in ten years. This will alleviate pressures on hospitals and help nurses treat patients where they belong - in actual hospital rooms.

We've seen similar issues with mental health in Ontario. As the Auditor General highlighted in 2016, emergency room usage for mental health reasons increased by 21% over the last five years, while Ontario's population grew by only 4% during the same period.

We have committed to invest \$1.9 billion dollars over 10 years in mental health, addictions and housing supports. These funds will be matched by the federal government, resulting in a \$3.8 billion dollar investment in addictions, mental health and other community supports.

Many seniors on fixed incomes cannot afford dental care. An inability to afford preventative dental care, results in many seniors turning to hospital emergency rooms for treatment. In fact, there were almost 61,000 visits to emergency departments for oral health problems in 2015 (or someone visiting the ER every 9 minutes because of dental pain), and the Association of Ontario Health Centres estimates it costs the province at least \$31 million annually. To address this, a PC Government will support our seniors by introducing dental care for low-income seniors.

FOR THE PEOPLE

DOUG FORD

Leader of the Ontario PC Party

Together, these investments will decrease hospital wait times and help alleviate unnecessary pressures faced by Ontario's nurses.

Thank you again for writing to me on such an important issue and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Ford', is positioned above the typed name.

Doug Ford
Leader, Ontario PC Party

FOR THE PEOPLE