

The Premier
of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

La première ministre
de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1



September 30, 2013

Ms. Doris Grinspun
Chief Executive Officer
Rhonda Seidman-Carlson
President
Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
158 Pearl Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 1L3

Dear Mesdames ^{Doris} Grinspun and ^{Rhonda} Seidman-Carlson:

Thank you for taking the time to write your open letter regarding Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy. I am pleased to respond.

We are proud of the progress we have made through our government's Poverty Reduction Strategy. As you noted in your letter, under the *Poverty Reduction Act, 2009*, Ontario has made a long-term commitment to poverty reduction and the development of a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy. We have made it a priority to better understand the challenges and determine the priorities for a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Our government has further demonstrated its commitment to poverty reduction through the creation of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion. This Cabinet committee, co-chaired by my colleagues the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Community and Social Services, will oversee the development of a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy.

As you are aware, our government has begun consultation with the people of Ontario on a renewed strategy and these will continue until October 2013. We remain committed to reflecting the voices of the community, including people who either have experienced or are currently experiencing poverty. The feedback will help inform options for a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario. I encourage you and your members to visit ontario.ca/breakingthecycle for more information on these consultations.

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In addition to our government's consultations, we are moving forward on a number of the areas you highlight for action. This includes the current consultations through the Minimum Wage Advisory Panel and our continued commitment through the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. We are also moving forward on reforming the social assistance system, removing barriers and increasing opportunities for everyone to participate in the workforce.

I am pleased to note that the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario lists poverty reduction as one of its highest priorities. Reducing poverty in Ontario requires a concerted group effort and we appreciate your support and commitment.

I note that you forwarded copies of your correspondence to ministers Piruzza and McMeekin. I trust that they, too, will take your comments into consideration. Mesdames Grinspun and Seidman-Carlson, thank you again for writing, and for your support and input on a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier

c: The Honourable Teresa Piruzza
The Honourable Ted McMeekin