



Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario
L'Association des infirmières et infirmiers
autorisés de l'Ontario

Mar. 22, 2018

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is the professional association representing registered nurses (RN), nurse practitioners (NP), and nursing students in all roles across all sectors and settings in Ontario. Our mission is to foster knowledge-based nursing practice, promote quality work environments, deliver excellence in professional development, and advance healthy public policy.

Health and health care needs to be front and centre in the upcoming provincial election. Nurses expect the next provincial government to take a leadership role in improving access and optimizing outcomes.

At our 18th Annual Queen's Park Day event on Feb. 22, 2018, RNAO released its policy platform, *Improving Health for All: RNAO's Challenge to Ontario's Political Parties*. Recommendations cover key areas such as improving access to nursing care and health system transformation, improving standards of living, creating a cleaner environment, and improving the province's fiscal capacity. You can view RNAO's policy platform here: RNAO.ca/platform, and technical backgrounders here: RNAO.ca/platform/evidence.

In advance of the provincial election, and in the interest of keeping RNAO's 41,000 RN, NP, and nursing student members, as well as the public, fully informed on key issues, RNAO has prepared key questions related to RNAO's policy platform. We are inviting the leaders of each provincial party to respond to our questions. RNAO will publish each response as soon as it is received, in the order that it is received, at RNAO.ca/platform.

I urge you to respond as soon as possible. The thousands of nurses and members of the public who visit our website every day are always very keen to read responses from each of the parties. Your response will be indicative of the importance you give to nursing, health, and health care in Ontario.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to receiving your thoughtful responses alongside your party leader's picture. Please direct your response to me at dgrinspun@RNAO.ca and cc my Executive Assistant, Ms. Josephine Mo, at jmo@RNAO.ca.

Warm regards,

Doris Grinspun, RN, MSN, PhD, LLD(hon), Dr(hc), O.ONT
Chief Executive Officer, RNAO



RNAO Questionnaire to Party Leaders Provincial Election 2018

IMPROVING HEALTH FOR ALL

Improving access to nursing care

1. Do you support changes in provincial policy that would enable nurse practitioners (NP) to work to their full scope of practice and be appropriately compensated, thereby increasing access to health care in Ontario?

2. Will you support improving patient health outcomes and safety by mandating that:
 - Any new nursing hires in tertiary, quaternary, and cancer care hospitals be RNs
 - All first home care assessments be conducted by an RN

3. Will you support increasing access to health services by implementing independent RN prescribing and allowing RNs to continue to initiate the controlled act of psychotherapy?

4. Will you commit to supporting minimum staffing levels in LTC homes so that residents can live safely and with dignity?

Improving Ontario's health system

5. Do you support a health system that is anchored in primary care, and do you agree that the 4,000 RN care coordinators currently in the LHINs must be located in primary care settings?

6. RNAO supports a provincial pharmacare program covering all medically necessary drugs without means testing, user fees or co-payments for Ontarians of all ages. Do you agree with RNAO?

7. In Ontario, about 2.3 million people cannot afford to visit a dental professional. Will you join RNAO and the Ontario Oral Health Alliance in asking the province to invest \$10 million as a first step, to provide oral health care to adults and seniors living with low income across the province?



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8. Do you support RNAO's call to transform funding models in long-term care (LTC) homes so that funding is not cut when homes deliver better outcomes?

9. Do you agree that Ontarians should have ownership and control of their own personal health records and that this information should be electronic and portable between health-care settings?

10. Do you support government working in partnership with Indigenous nations to address urgent health needs identified by them, such as the ongoing crisis of children and youth suicide?

Improving our living standards

11. Do you support increasing investment to prevent and address the crisis of homelessness:
 - Invest one per cent of Ontario's budget (\$1.5 billion) to build new affordable, accessible housing and fix existing units in need of repair
 - Create 30,000 supportive housing units for people with mental health and addiction challenges over 10 years
 - Work with other levels of government to address homelessness and ensure adequate shelter space

12. Do you support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour on January 1, 2019?

Improving our environment

13. Will you push for a provincial carbon pricing system that is sufficient for the province to reach its greenhouse gas emission targets, while protecting vulnerable populations?

Improving our fiscal capacity

14. Ontario is not adequately investing in infrastructure and services. To restore these investments while balancing the provincial budget, RNAO advocates for expanding government revenue through a combination of fairer taxes and other revenue sources, such as making polluters pay. Do you agree with RNAO?