



# Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario New Democrats

[www.OntarioNDP.com](http://www.OntarioNDP.com)

Andria Spindel

President and CEO,

Ontario March of Dimes/March of Dimes Canada

10 Overlea Blvd.,

Toronto, Ontario M4H 1A4

September 29, 2011

Dear Ms. Spindel,

Thank you for Ontario March of Dimes/March of Dimes Canada letter and questionnaire. Ontario's New Democrats are proud to have worked closely with Ontario March of Dimes/March of Dimes Canada and we look forward to our continued work with your organization.

Home and community care are key pillars in Ontario's health care system and, increasingly, voters are looking to their MPPs and political parties to put forward policies that support and grow this essential sector.

Ontario's New Democrats have a plan to improve and expand access to home and community supports. The need for this action is desperate—currently, seniors and others needing home care or nursing home beds are taking up 16 per cent of hospital beds in Ontario. Waits for long-term care have tripled, and 10,000 people are left struggling to cope.

We will first eliminate the wait list for home care services, through a commitment to adding an additional one million hours of home care into the system. We also have a plan to improve access to homemaking and support services so that Ontarians can stay in their homes longer. An additional 7.5 million hours of non-medical home-making care, such as preparing meals and shovelling the walk, will give Ontarians the supports they need.

Ontario's New Democrats have long called for strengthened home and community supports. Unfortunately, the competitive bidding process in home care, supported by both the Liberal and PC parties, has siphoned health care dollars into for-profit pockets as low cost trumps high quality. We will conduct a comprehensive review of the competitive bidding policy—with a goal of reducing management and administration costs—so that our precious health care dollars are spent providing services rather than generating profit.





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Personal Support Workers are an essential part of Ontario's health care system. For too long, the inadequacies in our health care system have been borne by workers like these. Unpaid travel time, unsustainable workload, and improper protections are all factors. New Democrats have worked with multiple stakeholders to bring attention to these issues and we will continue to work to increase protections and supports for PSWs.

The re-negotiation of the federal-provincial health accord in 2014 will be of great importance to the future of health care in our province. Ontario's New Democrats are committed to a strong negotiation process that strengthens the principles of the Canada Health Act, focuses on prevention and primary care, and improves access to health care services.

Those who care for a loved one do so selflessly and often without the support that they need. Ontario's New Democrats recognize that more work is needed to support caregivers. We are committed to working with both caregivers and their loved ones to develop the needed solutions.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. You can be assured that New Democrats will continue to work with Ontario March of Dimes/March of Dimes Canada on these important issues, now and after October 6th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Horwath". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrea Horwath Leader, Ontario's New Democrats