

MILLION JOBS PLAN

May 30, 2014

Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Alliance

Dear Members of the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Alliance:

Thank you very much for your letter. We appreciate the opportunity to listen to your priorities for Ontario. We share your commitment to Ontario's future and believe that with more and better jobs, we can do what's necessary to bring about the change Ontario needs.

I'm excited about our *Million Jobs Plan*—a plan to bring jobs back to Ontario, stop overspending, balance the budget and keep our debt from growing. Our plan relies on the notion that government should be smaller, but what it does, it does better. Our priorities for this election can be found at www.millionjobsplan.com

Please find enclosed sections of our *Million Jobs Plan* related to mental health care.

We need to face our challenges honestly and compassionately. It won't be easy, but it can be done and it will be worth it. I know we can build a previously unimagined Ontario, but it's going to take some courage and a willingness to challenge the failed status quo. That's what our Ontario PC *Million Jobs Plan* delivers. We are asking government to tighten its belt, the way everyday Ontarians have, so that one million men and women out of work will have a shot at solid, good-paying jobs.

We've got a job to do. It's time to get Ontario working better.

Sincerely,



Tim Hudak
Leader, Ontario PC Party

ONTARIO PC MILLION JOBS PLAN

A BETTER APPROACH TO HEALTH CARE

Health care is the provincial government's most important responsibility. Our plan for a strong economy and a government that lives within its means will give us the ability to deliver better health care.

Our health and the health of our families depend on reliable access to top quality care. Ontario is blessed with dedicated nurses, doctors and other caregivers, all of whom work hard to do their best for patients. Yet we all know that their commitment alone is not enough; health care is not always timely or easy to use, and it faces enormous pressure in the future.

In the decades leading up to the last recession, the health care bill in Ontario rose steadily between six and eight per cent a year. That's just not sustainable. Economists, health care experts and political parties agree on that. Despite all of the spending, and the efforts of our outstanding front-line health workers, we do not consistently get the results Ontario families expect and deserve. Far too many seniors wait for the home care or the long-term care they need. People with chronic diseases like diabetes and kidney disease get a tremendous amount of health care treatment, but their health results are often poor.

While we often use the term "health care system," it isn't one, really. Instead, it is a confusing series of organizations and individuals, each typically focused on only one aspect of a person's care. Worse, key decisions are too often made at the Ministry of Health or in the so-called Local Health Integration Networks, by bureaucrats who are not nurses and doctors, and who never see a patient. We will put local health care decision making in the hands of the front-line professionals who care for you in your community. We think your nurses, doctors, community care organizations and hospitals know best what care you need.

To get them all working together, we will remove layers of unnecessary bureaucracy, and instead give the responsibility for co-ordinating care to organizations that actually deliver health care. We call these Health Hubs. They will bring front-line local experts from every aspect of health care together at the same table to decide what's best in your community, and to work together on actually delivering it. The focus will not be on the needs of institutions, but on the needs of the patient.

All of our proposals are focused on one goal: helping you and your family to be as healthy as possible. Some of the choices required to get there are difficult, while others may seem so obvious it's hard to imagine why they haven't happened already. With the courage to make those choices, and with the support of the dedicated professionals who make our health their life's work, we have complete confidence that our best, and healthiest, days are ahead.

ACTION – MAKE MENTAL HEALTH CARE A PRIORITY

Stop treating mental health as an afterthought in the system. Mental health care is a fundamental part of health care. It cannot be treated exclusively as a social service, as if a disorder in the brain is a less legitimate health problem than one in any other part of the body. Good mental health is just as important as good physical health. Mental health

issues affect people in every part of society, with huge economic and social costs, and devastating impacts on families. Homelessness in our cities is a symptom of the system's inability to help the people who need it most. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people 15-25 years of age. Our families and young people are crying out for help, but not nearly enough is being done. We will take the fragmented services now offered and replace them with a comprehensive approach to help some of our most vulnerable citizens.