

**ACCESS TO THE RIGHT
HEALTH CARE,**
AT THE RIGHT TIME,
IN THE RIGHT PLACE

WHAT **LEADERSHIP** IS.

KATHLEEN WYNNE'S PLAN FOR ONTARIO

Kathleen





**ACCESS TO THE RIGHT HEALTH CARE,
AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE**

Our Goals:

Ontario will be the healthiest place in North America to grow up and grow old. Health care funding will reflect population needs and be on a sustainable path, with every dollar used in the most appropriate way.

ACCESS TO THE RIGHT HEALTH CARE, AT THE RIGHT TIME, IN THE RIGHT PLACE

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING IN BETTER ACCESS TO BETTER HEALTH CARE. Providing high-quality health care on the basis of need, rather than the ability to pay, is a defining characteristic of Canada, and is the most important thing a government can do to provide people with security. **We are making changes to provide better access to health care, better respond to the needs of an aging population, reduce wait times, make better use of technology to modernize and transform, and to focus on prevention.** Our goal has been to get ahead of the demographic shift that is dramatically affecting our health care system.

We choose to lead. A Kathleen Wynne Government will ensure that **Ontarians have access to the right care, in the right place, at the right time.** Our system will be responsive, nimble, and adaptable, to ensure that we are achieving the best health outcomes, in a sustainable way. **We will support a culture of health, helping people stay well.** But when Ontarians need it, our health care system will be there for them.

The time to lead is now. The transformation we need has meant – and will mean – tough choices. But they are the vital choices we must make now if we are to protect the public health care system Ontario families rely on. **This is our chance. This is the choice.**

A Kathleen Wynne Government will **advocate for a fair share for Ontario** from the federal government, which unilaterally cut \$641 million from Ontario in 2013-14, so that Ontario can provide the health care services our people need. And we will continue to advocate for a renewed **national role in funding health care needs**, such as a **national pharmacare program.**

As part of our 10-year plan, a Kathleen Wynne Government will:

- › Support family health, including guaranteeing that every Ontarian has access to a primary care provider
- › Support mothers and their children's health
- › Support seniors, their families and their caregivers
- › Manage the health care system effectively

SUPPORTING FAMILY HEALTH

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING IN PUBLIC HEALTH CARE TO KEEP ONTARIO FAMILIES HEALTHY AND HAPPY. That is why we will support **greater access** to quality care for Ontario families. By the end of our mandate, we will **guarantee that every Ontarian has access to a primary care provider**. We will also build on our **expansion of scopes of practice** so Ontarians can get the care they need, closer to home; we will continue to **reduce wait times**, expand access to **virtual care** and create more **Health Links** to support those who have multiple, complex conditions.

A Kathleen Wynne Government will also **support a better culture of care** by providing **culturally appropriate care** and developing a **Community Wellness and Culture of Health Strategy**.

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE BY:

-  **PROVIDING A PRIMARY CARE GUARANTEE.** We will guarantee that every Ontarian has access to a primary care provider. We will work with our partners to expand access to primary care, and develop targeted approaches for northern, rural and fast-growing communities.
-  **REDUCING WAIT TIMES.** We will build on our record of success in reducing wait times in five key areas by more than 50 per cent. This second phase of our wait times strategy will focus on referrals to specialists. By better coordinating care and improving access to the right providers, in the right place, at the right time, we will continue to bring down wait times in key areas of health services.
-  **INCREASING INVESTMENT IN OUR MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS STRATEGY.** We will increase funding by \$220 million over three years and renew our commitment to Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy with investments in community supports, early intervention and help for families and individuals as they transition through the system. Everyone deserves a roof over their heads, and support in their home if they need it. As part of our Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, we will commit to investing in additional supportive housing through rent supplements and supportive services.
-  **CREATING MORE HEALTH LINKS.** We will create 36 more Health Links, growing to more than 90 province-wide. Health Links help those who have multiple, complex conditions, and provide a personal care coordinator for each patient, so that the burden of managing appointments and sharing information is reduced.

We will guarantee that every Ontarian has access to a primary care provider.

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EXPANDING SCOPES OF PRACTICE. We will build on our expansion of scopes of practice, to ensure that nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals can make their full contribution to the health care system. By allowing providers to use a greater skill set, we will be able to ensure that Ontarians can get the care they need, closer to home.

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ADVOCATING FOR NATIONAL DRUG INSURANCE. Ontario has been a strong advocate for a national drug insurance program. We will continue to push the federal government to come to the table so that we can provide affordable access to medication for all Ontarians, building on the success of the Ontario Drug Benefit and other programs.

We will support a better culture of health by:

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PROVIDING CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CARE. We will work with our hospitals, Health Links, Community Health Centres, health care providers, and other institutions to make sure that they are responding to the needs of different cultural communities. We will better understand how the health care system can plan for, respond to, and support these communities. This could mean providing more culturally appropriate food or better translation services.

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DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND CULTURE OF HEALTH STRATEGY. We will:
 - > **Empower communities to develop their own community wellness strategies.** The development of Community Hubs, and the active engagement of our partners in public health units across the province, will provide local places to house community-driven programs that can focus on health and wellness.
 - > **Build on other programming,** including the recommendations of the Healthy Kids Panel, our commitment to get kids active in schools, and our Seniors Community Grants, to ensure that Ontarians are living active healthy lives, at all stages.
 - > **Work with business and industry to find ways to provide Ontarians with better information about chemicals linked with cancer,** and identify ways to support industry to ensure children's products on Ontario shelves are as safe as products in the US and European Union.
 - > **Renew our efforts to build a **Smoke-Free Ontario.****
 - » We will ban flavoured tobacco targeting children, broaden restrictions for smoking in public places, and double penalties for selling tobacco to children and teenagers.
 - » We are increasing the tobacco tax by \$3.25 per carton.
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SUPPORTING MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN'S HEALTH:

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS INVESTING TO MAKE SURE THAT ONTARIANS GET OFF TO THE BEST START IN LIFE. We know that **early intervention is the best way to both improve health outcomes** and keep the system sustainable; that is why we will support new mothers and their babies and children. We will support **families who want to grow** and provide **newborn screening** to ensure early detection and treatment. We will support lower-income Ontarians by expanding access to **children's dental benefits** in our first year, and working to introduce **children's health benefits** and extend health benefits to all low-income Ontarians over the next ten years.

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE SUPPORT TO MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN BY:

- ✔ **SUPPORTING FAMILIES THAT WANT TO GROW.** Starting in 2015, we will expand funding for infertility services to improve affordability and access, while protecting the health and safety of patients and their babies. We will support one cycle of in vitro fertilization for more than 4,000 more women, giving them hope of having a family someday. We will continue to help families that are seeking to adopt.
- ✔ **PROVIDING ACCESS TO FREE VACCINATIONS.** The availability of free vaccines, which we have expanded from eight in 2003 to 21 today, has saved countless lives and protected the health of Ontarians. We will continue to urge families to get their children vaccinated.
- ✔ **PROVIDE NEWBORN SCREENING.** We will maintain access to our free Newborn Screening program. Over the last 10 years, Ontario has gone from screening for two conditions to screening for 29 conditions, including sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis. Our goal is that every baby gets the free screenings that are available, and we will work with families and health care workers toward this goal.

SUPPORTING SENIORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS ADDRESSING THE GROWING NEEDS OF THE PROVINCE'S AGING POPULATION. We will provide seniors with better access to the **right health care, at the right time, in the right place** as part of our 10-year plan for Ontario.

Our seniors are living longer and living better and we need to adapt to what they both want and need. Today's seniors want to live at home, in their communities, for as long as possible – which is better for their mental and physical health. That's why we are leading a dramatic shift. **Investing in prevention and alternative care strategies, which keep seniors out of hospitals and in their homes**, is both the right thing to do for seniors and the responsible thing to do for government. Over the next four years, we will continue to **invest in home care** to provide better care, faster, to more people, and we will invest in those **working in the home care sector** to reduce turnover rates and increase quality. We will also invest in **dementia supports** for prevention and management of dementia for families and providers, and develop a **Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy** to help patients receive their end-of-life at home.

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL BETTER SUPPORT SENIORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS BY:

-  **INVESTING IN HOME CARE.** We will invest more than \$750 million in home and community care over three years, including more than \$270 million in the first year, to provide better care and bring down wait times. By supporting better coordination of services and investment in the critical role that Personal Support Workers and others play, we will ensure that Ontarians have access to the type of care they need, right in their own homes.
-  **INCREASING PAY FOR PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS (PSWS).** We will increase quality of care and reduce job turnover by increasing PSW wages by \$1.50 an hour in 2014, \$1.50 an hour in 2015, and \$1 an hour in 2016.
-  **DEVELOPING A PALLIATIVE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE STRATEGY.** We will develop a strategy to help more patients receive their end-of-life care at home. As an immediate step, we will commit to funding 20 more hospices, almost doubling the number of people who will have access to quality end-of-life care, including in rural areas. That translates into 75,000 additional days available to allow people the opportunity to spend their final days in a home-like setting, with the right care. We will also work at the national level to ensure that Canada has a national dialogue on dying with dignity.

- ✔ **SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS.** We will support family caregivers by expanding the right to time off work, respite programs, education and training supports.
- ✔ **INCREASING FUNDING FOR THE SENIORS ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM.** We will build on the success of our seniors programming with further expansion of the Seniors Health Centres and Elderly Persons Centres, with a phased and targeted approach, to ensure these programs get into the communities that most need them. We are doubling the Seniors Community Grant Program.
- ✔ **INVESTING IN DEMENTIA SUPPORTS.** Working with our partners throughout the system, we will invest in appropriate resources to improve the development of evidence about dementia and Alzheimer disease and their impacts, and will provide appropriate supports for prevention and management of dementia for families and providers. We will invest in 25 new Memory Clinics that will help delay the onset of dementia, and support Ontarians with memory/cognitive impairment to better manage chronic disease and mobility challenges.

We will invest in 25 new Memory Clinics.

MANAGING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY

STRONG LEADERSHIP MEANS MANAGING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY. There are two very important questions driving our health care transformation agenda – Is the system working for people today? And, will the system be there for our children and our grandchildren to rely on tomorrow? We will make sure institutions work better together to ensure financial, health and human resources are used effectively.

When it comes to technology, new advances mean **reduced wait times and better diagnostic tools**. Virtual health initiatives **eliminate the barrier of distance**, and electronic health records create **a more patient-centred system**, so patients only have to tell their story once. We will continue to **apply new technologies** in the right way, with the goal of **improving patient care**, reforming the system and changing what is not working.

A KATHLEEN WYNNE GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM BY:

- ✔ **MAKING INSTITUTIONS WORK BETTER TOGETHER.** As we manage the health care system, we will keep our focus on Ontarians and patients. We will review Local Health Integration Networks, Community Care Access Cen-

tres, and Public Health Units to ensure that we are using financial, health, and human resources in the most effective way.

- ✔ **MAKING BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY.** Technology, both existing and emerging, is a key enabler of our health care system. We will seek out all opportunities for the effective and sustainable use of technology – including mobile technology and technology in our doctors’ offices and hospitals – to achieve system sustainability and improve outcomes for patients.
 - ✔ **ESTABLISH A PATIENT OMBUDSMAN.** We will establish a Patient Ombudsman to resolve complaints and concerns and to drive improvements across the health care system.
 - ✔ **ACCOUNTABILITY AT ORNGE.** We will build on the management changes we made at Ornge and re-introduce legislation that will give us the powers we need to safeguard patient care, stop future abuses, and get better value for our air ambulance dollars.
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