



Deb Matthews

London North Centre

Dear Keri and Angie,

Thank you so much for the work you do to advance the health and well-being of Ontarians. I assure you enhancing the value of Family Health Teams (FHTs) is a priority for me personally, for Premier Kathleen Wynne, and for the Ontario Liberal Party.

I am so proud of the impact FHTs have had across the province. In just 10 years, we've gone from zero family health teams (FHTs) to 200 family health teams. That means more than 1,800 interdisciplinary health professionals are working side by side with over 2,400 physicians in our family health teams. Three million Ontarians are benefiting from family health teams, including over 800,000 previously unattached patients. In and around London alone, there are three Family Health Teams providing care to more than 162,000 patients, and FHTs are growing each year with more doctors added.

The second pillar of the Ontario Liberal health action plan is focused on better access to stronger family health care. We know that when patients have faster access to family health care they stay healthier, get connected to the right care and are less likely to require treatment in hospital. That's why the Liberal government has worked with health care providers to find and develop innovative ways to bring primary care closer to people.

We will continue to build on this success and work with organizations such as AFHTO to ensure patients are getting the right care in the right place at the right time.

If re-elected, Ontario Liberals will expanding access to primary care, ensuring that every Ontarian has access to a primary care provider, and develop targeted approaches for northern,

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rural and fast-growing communities. This will including building on the success we have had with FHTs to date.

We know that 5% of our most complex needs patients account for 2/3 of our health care costs. That's why we are bringing together providers in our most complex patients' circle of care to create individualized care plans, keeping patients in their homes, out of hospital. Ontario Liberals will continue to work with FHTs and other community partners to build on the success of the 54 health links across the province, growing the number to more than 90 province-wide.

In order to further enhance the capacity of family care teams, we will expand scopes of practice. Registered Nurses would be entrusted with the authority to prescribe medications while Nurse Practitioners would be able to order a full range of x-ray, CT scans, ultrasounds, MRIs, and other diagnostic procedures.

Thank you for the important work you do and for providing me the opportunity to share the progress we've made and our plans for the future. I know that we share common goals: improving patient outcomes and enhancing value in the health care system. If re-elected, I would welcome the opportunity to continue our hard work together toward this objective.

Sincerely,
Deb Matthews

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