

#EndTheWait

Ask:

If your party is elected, will you commit to ending the wait for funding and supports to people with a developmental disability and their families and stabilizing services by committing to the \$810 million over three years promised in the proposed 2014 provincial budget?

Why

Individuals with a developmental disability and their families are in crisis. The developmental services system requires imminent investment and planning and community support agencies are struggling to respond to this crisis. Investment will:

- End the wait for daily living supports for youth and adults which is almost 20,000 people long
- Begin to address the wait list of over 7,000 people who are waiting for support to live in a home of their own
- Deliver stability to agencies who provide direct supports
- Develop new community-based services that support community inclusion

The Background

- The developmental services sector, which supports over 60,000 children and adults with a developmental disability has been in crisis for some time now; this has been validated by the government's all party Select Committee on Developmental Services. Their final report and recommendations were due in June.
- An Ombudsman's investigation into waiting lists

for people with a developmental disability brought in over 1,000 complaints; the results of this in-depth investigation are expected this summer.

- Delivery of supports and services have been eroding for years.
- Over 100 agencies are currently engaged in labour negotiations with no commitment of future funding with which to bargain

The Facts

- Approximately 25,000 children and adults with a developmental disability are on waitlists for support
- Agencies have not had budget increases in over 4 years and cannot be expected to continue to provide quality supports without resources
- Social inclusion and transformation is not realistic under these circumstances.
- The proposed 2014 provincial budget promised the developmental services sector \$810 in funding to eliminate waitlists for the Passport and Special Services at home programs, reduce wait list for residential supports, stabilize agencies and provide opportunity to develop supports for people with a developmental disability

The Solution

- The \$810 million over three years promised in the recent 2014 provincial budget be implemented by whichever party forms the next government
- The next government commit to a long-term plan for investment in the developmental services sector aimed at ensuring that adequate supports and services exist to eliminate waitlists in the sector and stabilize agencies by providing the operating infrastructure needed to sustain the system and help create innovative solutions.
- That funding be available in the next 12 months to address the needs of all who are waiting for services and supports and are deemed to be in crisis or facing crisis in the near future.

The Plan

Here are a few ideas you can use to build provincial momentum to encourage government to **#EndTheWait** for individuals with a developmental disability and their families.

Ask your local candidates the question:

If your party is elected, will you commit to ending the wait for funding and supports to people with a developmental disability and their families and stabilizing services by committing to the \$810 million over three years promised in the proposed 2014 provincial budget?

Prepare and distribute your election package

- Use the “#EndTheWait fact sheet in your election messaging and make copies available on your website
- Attend all candidate meetings and debates and ask the question!
- Connect with the party leaders and ask the question!
Liberals: Kathleen Wynne – twitter: @kathleen_wynne, facebook: Kathleen Wynne
NDP: Andrea Horwath – twitter: @AndreaHorwath, facebook: Andrea Horwath
PC: Tim Hudak – twitter: @timhudak, facebook: Tim Hudak
- Email candidates with your own message or send them the #EndTheWait e-card

Use social media to reach candidates and party leaders:

On Your Website

Add a ‘call to action’ on your website enabling members to easily click on a link and send their candidate or party leader the message

On Twitter:

Follow, use and retweet tweets that use the hashtags **#endthewait** and **#ONpoli** urging candidates to honour the recent promised investment and eliminate waitlists and stabilize services for people with a developmental disability and their families

- Follow the grassroots campaign @dignity2016
- Follow the Provincial Network on twitter! You can find us @ProvNetDS

On Facebook:

- Post **#EndTheWait** messages and the e-card on your agency facebook account and ask your friends to share!
- You can also post messages and e-cards on candidate and leader facebook pages too.

Engage your Members:

Distribute your election campaign messaging and the **#EndTheWait** fact sheet and ask members, volunteers, staff and people you support to:

- Ask candidates the question when they knock on their doors
- Provide candidates copies of the fact sheet to candidates
- Attend candidate meetings in their area and ask the question
- Send messages to candidates via twitter and facebook
- Use social media to expand outreach and build an audience for support

Use the hashtags!

Using the following hashtags on all communication will build momentum and recognition that we must **#EndTheWait** for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

#endthewait on all tweets and facebook posts

#VoteON - this reaches all candidates, media and members of the public who are following the election

#ONpoli as pundits, policy makers all follow this hashtag

Not sure how much political action by charities is too much?

Watch these short videos recently produced by CRA:
<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/vdglly/chrts-gvng/srs-pltclctvts-eng.html>