



# Andrea Horwath

Leader, Ontario New Democrats

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Barbara McCormack,  
President, Family Alliance Ontario  
c/o Durham Family Network  
20 - 850 King Street West  
Oshawa, Ontario L1J 8N5

October 3, 2011

Dear Ms. McCormack,

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about important issues related to the provision of supports for people with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

I can assure you that Ontario's New Democrats agree wholeheartedly that people with disabilities should have the opportunity to be fully participating members of their communities.

We are concerned about the lengthy waits for developmental supports and services. Our New Democrat team at Queen's Park have been strong advocates for increased supports for programs like Special Services at Home. We have advocated for reducing wait lists and for reviewing the income cap on SSAH. New Democrats will continue to work for the improvement of these programs.

Ontario's NDP has also taken the lead in urging improvements to the Ontario Disability Support Program. We are committed to following through promptly on recommendations arising out of the Review of Social Assistance next year to improve income adequacy of programs and to provide individualized support to return to work. In the interim, we will increase social assistance rates to ensure they keep up with inflation. We will also end the clawback on the first \$300/month of ODSP recipient earnings during the first year of employment, and will increase the monthly work-related benefit to \$150.

Finally, please be assured that we are committed as a party to fully implementing United Nations resolutions to which Canada is party, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We look forward to working you in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely,

Andrea Horwath  
Leader, Ontario's New Democrats

