

District 3 RTO Questions

NDP – Michele McCleave-Kennedy

Long-Term Care

1. Our platform includes restoring a legislated minimum standard of care for every long-term care resident in Ontario, which will include requiring every resident to receive a minimum of four hours of hands-on care every day. We will also expand the public inquiry into long-term care to find and fix the specific problems that lead to the lack of care within our first 100 days in government.
2. We know that there are more than 32,000 people waiting for a home in long-term care, and often they have to wait for years to find one. Over the next five years we will add 15,000 more long-term care beds, and that number will reach 40,000 by 2028.
3. We want to make sure that all seniors are treated with dignity by all staff who interact with them, including PSWs. That's why we will immediately increase home care funding by \$300 million, which will allow us to end front-line staff layoffs, and ensure more stable employment and consistent training for PSWs. This is an important part of ensuring PSWs are adequately trained to deal with residents' complex needs. Additionally, we will work with local post-secondary institutions to make sure that they offer the programs demanded by the labour market, including specialized PSW training. Finally, we will establish a dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions which will work to make sure all Ontarians' mental health needs are addressed, including seniors in long-term care.

Geriatric Training

1. We know that our seniors have different needs than other Ontarians, and special healthcare needs. We will work with healthcare partners – including hospitals and schools – to promote equal access to health care and a greater understanding of seniors' needs.
2. We've committed to raising funding for community non-profit health centres by \$30 million, as well as opening 35 new Community Health Centres by 2025. This will include geriatric facilities and provide opportunities for trainee placements. We will also create 27,000 new placement opportunities for post-secondary students to complete co-op and internship placements, and will double Ontario's Career Kick-Start program to create new work-integrated learning opportunities through the province's colleges and universities.
3. Our current public education system is based on outdated plans from Mike Harris's government. We'll not only improve the funding formula and end school closures, we'll also continue the long-overdue curriculum update currently underway, paying particular

attention to career counselling, which can help guide students towards geriatric healthcare. Additionally, I understand that it's important to foster intergenerational relationships and understanding as early as possible, and will encourage the government to include this in the health curriculum as part of its curriculum update.

Elder Abuse

1. In addition to our 5.3% increase in hospital funding, we'll invest \$30 million in community care and open 35 new Community Health Centres by 2025, and immediately increase homecare funding by \$300 million, which will help to reduce wait times for PSWs, and increase service hours. Our dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions will offer services to all Ontarians, including seniors, and our expanded public inquiry into long-term care services will ensure that we fix any problems in the system.
2. Our investments in health care services will mean that service provider managers have more time to dedicate to making sure their PSWs are properly trained and caring for clients. Additionally, because we are committed to forming an open, transparent government, we will work with those providing services to elders to ensure proper oversight.
3. Not only are we committed to funding a full array of services to Ontario's seniors and ensuring they receive the care they need, we are also the only party planning to establish a dedicated Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. This will ensure that all Ontarians, including older adults, no longer have to wait months – or even years – for the services they need, and get bounced from provider to provider and ministry to ministry to work things out. The process will be streamlined and properly funded, and given the focus it deserves.