



May 16, 2022

Len Baker

President & CEO - March of Dimes Canada

10 Overlea Blvd.

Toronto, Ontario M4H 1A4

Dear Mr. Baker,

Thank you for sharing your organization's letter and allowing us the opportunity to respond. The Ontario PC Party will continue to work together with the March of Dimes and look for ways to empower people with disabilities to thrive in our province.

If re-elected on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, an Ontario PC government would increase Ontario Disability Support Program payments by five per cent annually, which would represent the largest amount in more than a decade. The Ontario PCs will also introduce legislation to increase ODSP rates annually, tied to inflation.

Knowing that ODSP is facing challenges, we've stressed the importance of the federal government's immediate delivery of their promise to support individuals with a disability through the establishment of a Canadian Disability Benefit. And we're going to continue holding them to that commitment. And we've introduced programs like the [LIFT](#) and [CARE](#) tax credits that help low-income people.

Since September 2021, the Ontario PC Party has invested over \$200 million into the Skills Development Fund. The Fund was designed to support fresh ideas for training and skills development that will help keep our economy open and make our workforce more resilient. Organizations who applied for the second round of funding can receive financial support to accommodate trainees and workers with disabilities. Employers can receive up to \$5,000 per job placement if they support a trainee with a disability. Project proposals will be given special consideration if they can clearly show how they will support postsecondary and high school graduates with disabilities or those experiencing mental health challenges.

This expansion of ODSP by five per cent will build on other proposed and existing supports for low-income and vulnerable Ontarians. A re-elected PC government will enhance the Low-income Individuals and Families Tax ([LIFT](#)) Credit to put more money back in the pockets of 1.7 million people. The PC government also invested more than \$1 billion in the Social Services Relief Fund and expanded access to temporary emergency assistance for those in financial crisis. Emergency shelters, food banks, charities, non-profits and emergency services have accessed this fund to help cope with growing demand and extraordinary circumstances.

In the Ontario 2022 budget, Doug Ford and the Ontario PCs announced \$300 in additional tax relief in 2022, on average, for 1.1 million lower-income workers through the proposed Low-income Individuals and Families Tax Credit enhancement.



Our government raised ODSP and OW rates when we took office. OW and ODSP clients continue to have access to the government's Discretionary Benefit program to assist with one-time exceptional expenses. These investments back up our transformation of social assistance, to build a more responsive, efficient and person-centered social assistance system that will get people back to work and help the province recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

As your letter outlines, the Ontario PC government is committed to honouring our expansion on the Home and Vehicle Modification Program (HVMP). Outlined in our Budget 2022 an additional investment of \$15 million over the next three years will support more than 1,200 individuals and families each year in making their homes safer and more accessible. Eligible individuals may receive a grant of up to \$15,000 to modify their home and/or vehicle so they can live safely and comfortably in their homes, avoid job loss and participate in their communities.

Thank you for sharing the March of Dimes priorities with our team. We will look to continue our partnership and deliver essential services, supports, and resources for people with disabilities.

Regards,

Ontario PC Party Campaign