

## **Andrea Horwath's Plan that Makes Sense**

# **Cut ER wait times in half and make healthcare a priority**

Open new 24-hour Family Health Clinics: 50 new family health clinics will be built across the province with the capacity to serve at least 250,000 people, cutting the number of Ontarians without access to primary care by 25%. Family Health Clinics will give patients an alternative to ERs for after-hours medical needs. Hire more nurse practitioners to treat and discharge patients in ERs New Democrats will hire 250 nurse practitioners to get ER patients treated and discharged more quickly, opening up more spaces for those with urgent or complex needs. St. Michael's Hospital has already introduced a program using nurse practitioners that has cut ER wait times in half. Eliminate the waitlist for acute long-term care beds

Our investment will create 1,400 additional long-term care beds, which will eliminate the entire "crisis" wait list. This will relieve considerable pressure from hospitals and in-patient beds, allowing for faster transfer from the ER for those who require hospitalization. Eliminate wait times for seniors with a Five Day Home Care guarantee

We will eliminate the list of 3,300 Ontarians waiting for personal support worker care. These clients will receive approximately two nursing visits and 7.5 hours of personal support per month.

Our plan also eliminates the wait list of 2,800 Ontarians waiting for other non-nursing care such as physiotherapists, social workers, etc. Support families caring for the ill or elderly with a Caregiver Tax Credit

Anyone who is a primary caregiver for someone needing help with basic functions like bathing, meal preparation, and receiving medical care will receive a credit of \$1,275 per year.

This credit is fully refundable and is in addition to supports available through other programs. Attract doctors to underserved communities by forgiving student debt

Our plan will attract doctors to underserved areas with a program to forgive student debt incurred in medical school.

This will help bring as many as 250 new physicians to rural communities by forgiving up to \$20,000 of debt per year of service.

*Liberals mismanaged our healthcare system by wasting money on eHealth and ORNGE. New Democrats will invest our healthcare dollars on frontline service and end long waits.*