

Office of the
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Leader

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Sessional Paper No. P-95

Petition relating to a Want of Confidence motion debate (Sessional Paper No. P-95)
Mr. Chudleigh and Mr. McDonnell (Tabled April 29, 2013).
Mr. McDonnell (Tabled April 30, May 1, and May 15, 2013)

Response:

I want to thank the members for raising their concerns. Our new government is committed to working together to make this minority parliament work. Our Premier is dedicated to being open and transparent and finding answers for Ontarians. When Premier Wynne took office she recalled the legislature on the first available opportunity, immediately recalled committees, asked the Auditor to look into the Oakville facility, and appeared before committee herself.

Our goal is to help Ontarians in their everyday lives, create jobs, and invest in our economy. Last spring we worked with the NDP to pass a strong budget that helps Ontario move in the right direction. Recently, we put forward a motion supporting several Bills that the PCs have committed to passing as well. We have a plan – the budget – to create jobs and help people in their everyday lives.

We are pleased the PC Party has agreed to quickly pass important government bills like: Bill 30, The Skin Cancer Prevention Act (Tanning Beds), 2013, Bill 70, The Regulated Health Professions Amendment Act (Spousal Exception), 2013, Bill 55, Stronger Protection for Ontario Consumers Act, 2013, Bill 36, Local Food Act, 2013, Bill 60, Wireless Services Agreements Act, 2013, Bill 77, Hawkins Gignac Act (Carbon Monoxide Safety), 2013, Bill 32, Registered Human Resources Professionals Act, 2013 and the Select Committee on Developmental Services.

We will continue working with both opposition parties to move Ontario in the right direction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John Milloy".

John Milloy
Government House Leader



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Sessional Paper No. P-36

Petition relating to Personal Support Workers (Sessional Paper No. P-36) Mr. Mantha and Mr. McDonnell. (Tabled May 27, 2013)

Response:

Personal support workers (PSWs), play a crucial role in our health care system and make an enormous contribution to the health and well-being of Ontarians.

On May 19, 2011, the ministry announced the creation of a PSW Registry as a means of better recognizing the work PSWs do for Ontarians. The PSW Registry was launched on June 1, 2012. As of March, 2013, there are approximately 20,000 PSWs who have applied to be registered with the Registry. The PSW Registry continues to take incremental steps to enhance the function of the Registry. It is currently now translated in French and compliant under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. The ministry is also working towards a mandatory registration policy for PSWs who provide publicly-funded personal support services in the home and community care sector.

On May 16, 2012, the ministry announced that over the next three years, Ontario will help 90,000 more seniors get the care they need to live comfortably in their own homes by adding three million more hours of personal support worker care. Having the support of PSWs enables seniors, people with physical disabilities and those with complex needs live independently at home — rather than in a hospital or long-term care home. Increasing PSW hours ensures access to the right care, at the right time, and in the right place.


The ministry created Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) to respond to the needs of individuals with challenging and complex behaviours wherever they live, at home, in long-term care (LTC), or elsewhere and to mitigate the strain for their families, healthcare professionals, and the healthcare system. The ministry is committed to working with the LHINs to ensure that LTC homes and community providers sustain their BSO health human resource capacity, including PSWs, to meet the needs of individuals with challenging and complex behaviours.

Since 2010/11, the ministry has invested approximately \$58.5M in BSO to support the redesign of service delivery across the province and the hiring of staffing resources. \$43.5M of the \$58.5M is invested in health human resources which include specialized nurses, PSWs, and other healthcare professionals.

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In January 2013, the ministry announced base funding of \$3.5M to support the training and recruitment of PSWs allowing LHINs to fund PSW salaries from the previously established 2008 level of \$40,000 to current levels. After meeting their FTE targets, the LHINs can use this funding for training of BSO staff.

Since 2003 there are 10,000 more staff in LTC homes and we continue to work towards enhancing the care and services provided to residents in LTC homes. As part of the commitment made in Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care, released January 2012, the government is developing a Seniors Strategy to build on investments and the need for improvements in LTC.



Honourable Deb Matthews