

Andrea Horwath



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January 17th, 2022

Premier Doug Ford
Queen's Park, Room 281
111 Wellesley St. West
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Dear Premier,

In a surprising move Friday, your Minister of Long-Term Care announced that he was resigning from his role as MPP and as Minister. This was an opportunity to appoint a new Minister dedicated to addressing the urgent crisis in Long-Term Care. Instead, you opted to add another portfolio to the Minister of Legislative Affairs and Government House Leader. Families, and experts are shocked that you would make this a part time job. I am calling on you to not only commit to a new dedicated Minister but a plan of action to address the crisis unfolding in Long-Term Care.

As I write this, there are 2,363 residents in long-term care infected with COVID-19 – literally 100 times the number of cases just a month ago. Nearly 4,000 staff are also reporting infection. Once again, we are hearing from residents, their families and frontline staff of mass staff shortages, and residents confined to rooms for days, even weeks, at a time.

I reiterate my call for an urgent staffing plan to deal with this crisis including an immediate raise for personal support workers (PSWs), hazard pay, N95 masks, and a real program for paid sick days. As importantly, we need a full-time Minister to focus on the urgent task at hand.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Andrea Horwath'.

Andrea Horwath,
Leader of the Official Opposition New Democrats
MPP, Hamilton Centre