



For a Better Ontario. Leadership Matters.

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To: Antonia Codispoti
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Thank you for your recent letter, which we received on September 14, 2007. We appreciate having been given the opportunity to respond to your questions about the Ontario PC Party and our commitment to the providing better planning for better health care in Ontario.

With respect to the two issues you have outlined two issues in your letter, we would like to offer the following comments.

First, John Tory and the Ontario PC Party believe it is a disgrace that Ontario is ninth out of 10 provinces in Canada when it comes to advance cancer drugs being made available to patients. We simply must do better than that. A John Tory PC Government will continue to fund the important cancer drugs that are already in use in Ontario and will continue to look to other jurisdictions across Canada and around the world to learn from best practices associated with improving access to cancer-fighting drugs.

Second, with respect to PET scans, the Ontario PC Party has noted, on several occasions, the inequity of the fact that British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick all give or are poised to give their patients access to PET scans, while, in Ontario, only a few hundred patients have access to PET scans – that is, if they meet the restrictive criteria for critical trials which have been going on for almost five years. We have called upon Dalton McGuinty and his Government in the Legislature to finally provide Ontarians with the time frame for completion of the clinical trials and a date when they can expect access to PET scans, but we have yet to receive a firm response.

Mr. Tory has said, both in the Legislature and in other forums, that it is unacceptable that Dalton McGuinty and the Liberals have said that there is not enough money for emergency rooms, not enough money to hire nurses, not enough money for PET scans, no money to help the families of autistic children, but yet, that the Ministry of Health, for instance, can spend \$1.4 million on hotel rooms in one year.

A John Tory PC Government will put an end to wasteful spending and make significant, annual, responsible growth in investment in health care such that by the fourth year of our mandate, we are spending more than \$8.5 billion more than current annual spending by the McGuinty Liberals.



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We will provide better health care in Ontario with a plan that is built on four principles: timely, universal access; the need for significant, reliable, responsible growth in health spending; a constant search for ways to improve care; and, respect for patients and providers alike. Our plan will provide Ontarians' with full value from every dollar. As long as universal accessibility is always protected and no one can buy access to better health care in Ontario, we will involve the private sector where there are opportunities to shorten waiting lists and improve access to high-quality, publicly-funded care.

These measures would, among other things, ensure that a John Tory PC Government will improve access to services, decreasing wait times and increasing capacity of the current health care system to serve more patients. In addition, we will support Ontarians with chronic disease in maintaining their independence and staying healthy through prevention, early detection and self-management. This will include piloting seven nurse-led clinics to provide help within Ontario communities.

We hope that you will have time to review our platform, "For a Better Ontario: Leadership Matters" and our health care policies in particular. This platform is not just an election platform, it is one for government. It was developed after more than two years of consultations with members of our party and other Ontarians from across the province and it provides greater details about our commitment to improving health care in the province of Ontario than we are able to provide in this forum.

We hope that this answers your questions and would like to thank you, once again, for the opportunity to outline some of the details of our platform for better health care.