

*YOUR NAME  
YOUR ADDRESS  
CITY, PROVINCE, POSTAL CODE*

May 31, 2013

*NAME OF YOUR MPP  
NAME OF YOUR RIDING  
MAILING ADDRESS  
CITY, PROVINCE, POSTAL CODE*

Dear *NAME OF YOUR MPP*,

*BEGIN WITH YOUR PERSONAL STORY*

- *DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES FACED LIVING WITH DYSTONIA (E.G. YOURSELF, CAREGIVERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS)*
- *EXPLAIN HOW THE CLOSURE OF THE CFMD WILL IMPACT YOU*
- *FEEL FREE TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH YOUR MPP FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION*
- *FEEL FREE TO ADD ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK YOUR MPP SHOULD KNOW*

*\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO DELETE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WHEN WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STORY!*

As a constituent of *NAME OF YOUR RIDING*, I am writing to ask for your support of a Movement Disorder Strategy in Ontario based on the multi-disciplinary model as exemplified by the Centre for Movement Disorders (CFMD). This model will best support all Ontarians affected by movement disorders.

After 11 years, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care has decided to cut the \$700,000 it provided in annual funding to the CFMD located in Markham, ON. As a result, this clinic will close effective August 31, 2013. This will impact 2,500 Ontarians and their families from both central and northern Ontario, who will lose access to essential services provided at the CFMD, including individual and group counseling, healthcare system navigation, caregiver support, occupational therapy, and social work services.

The Minister's decision has created an enormous void in the movement disorders community causing alarm, frustration, fear and uncertainty for Ontarians living with debilitating, progressive, and chronic movement disorders.

The multi-disciplinary community-based movement disorder clinic, as exemplified in the CFMD, is a model based on best-practices, shown to be cost effective, with proven positive health outcomes. In a five-year study conducted by the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Studies (ICES), the CFMD demonstrated:

- Reduced lengths of hospital stays to 14.09 days per CFMD patient compared to an average 17.17 days per patient for the non-CFMD cohort.
- Provincial savings estimated to be \$2,594,840 over a five year period.
- An improvement in patients' motor functions and a reduction in patients' depression - significantly improving their quality of life as well as reduced caregiver burden.

In the absence of a provincial Movement Disorder Strategy, the Minister's decision to cut funding to the CFMD has further destabilized an already strained healthcare system. This decision will result in a decreased quality of life and health for Ontarians living with movement disorders, and will also increase costs for Ontario tax payers.

The Government of Ontario needs to expand the multidisciplinary model of care and build on existing health services, in order to develop a coordinated and integrated provincial Movement Disorder Strategy to fully address the needs of those affected by debilitating, progressive, and chronic movement disorders.

This model has proven to be the gold standard of service delivery that should be imitated across the province, not reduced in capacity. I hope that we, the movement disorders community, can count on your full support of a provincial Movement Disorder Strategy.

Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*YOUR NAME*