

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
CITY, PROVINCE, POSTAL CODE

May 31, 2013

The Honourable Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Matthews,

BEGIN WITH YOUR PERSONAL STORY

- *DESCRIBE THE CHALLENGES FACED LIVING WITH PD (E.G. YOURSELF, CAREGIVERS, FAMILY, FRIENDS)*
- *EXPLAIN HOW THE CLOSURE OF THE CFMD WILL IMPACT YOU*
- *FEEL FREE TO ADD ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK THE MINISTER SHOULD KNOW*

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

As a member of the movement disorders community who relies heavily on the Ontario healthcare system, I am writing to ask for your support of a provincial Movement Disorder Strategy 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.

I am aware that the Ministry 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. As you know, 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. These services include telephone support provided by expert nurses and physician assistants, individual and group counseling, healthcare system navigation, caregiver support, occupational therapy, and social work services.

This 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. A five-year study conducted by the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Studies (ICES) found that patients treated at 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.
- Reduced long-term care admissions by 10% compared to other patients in Ontario.

- 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, funding cuts 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 that provides "the right care, at the right time, in the right place."

Thank you and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

cc: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
MPP Christine Elliott, Health Critic, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
MPP France G linas, Health and Long-Term Care Critic, New Democratic Party of Ontario
Sa d Rafi, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care