

Copy of letter distributed to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPS) who attended the virtual Queen's Park day event

Dear Minister/MPP,

Thank you very much for attending Spinal Cord Injury Ontario and March of Dimes Canada's Virtual Queen's Park Day 2020. It means a great deal to our community that you chose to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities alongside individuals and organizations representing the lived experiences and perspectives of people with disabilities.

As a valued supporter and key decision-maker, thank you for taking the time to attend and listen to the words of people with disabilities, caregivers, advocates, and experts about the realities facing our communities due to COVID-19. As you heard, Ontarians with disabilities have faced increased barriers and challenges during the pandemic, including isolation, financial insecurity, and impeded access to healthcare and support services.

But we also heard that there is great resilience among people with disabilities, and that there have been newfound opportunities that promote their community participation – including virtual events like this one. We were pleased to open our Queen's Park Day more broadly to members of our community and involve them in this important conversation with you.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to promote independence, empowerment, and inclusion for Ontarians with disabilities. At March of Dimes Canada and Spinal Cord Injury Ontario, we are truly thankful for allies like you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Stuart Howe CEO Spinal Cord Injury Ontario Leonard Baker President & CEO March of Dimes Canada

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