



Ontario Peer Development Initiative
Initiative ontarienne de développement favorisant l'aide entre pairs
Supporting Consumer/Survivor Initiatives Throughout Ontario
À l'appui de initiatives des usages survivants à travers l'Ontario

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are finally at the end of the first two weeks of the general election in Ontario, and OPDI has been monitoring developments closely.

With the Ontario Legislature rising on Thursday, April 28th after the Minister of Finance tabled the PC Government's 2022 Budget – [which the OPDI was pleased to issue a public reaction to](#) – all political parties and their candidates have been campaigning hard in their respective ridings.

The election was formally kicked off on Wednesday, May 4th, with the legislated election day set for June 2nd.

Over the course of the past two weeks, each of the main political parties (PC, Liberal and NDP) have released their respective campaign platforms. Policies related to mental health and addictions has been a featured element in each of these. The sector in which we represent is again a core election issue. This is great news as it will mean that regardless of the outcome, there will be increased attention and resources for segments like ours.

We encourage all of you to review these platforms carefully before making your decision on voting day. While each party has committed increased resources for mental health and addictions, there are some differences in funding and approach (more to come on this).

The PCs need to win at least 63 seats to maintain their majority government at Queen's Park (currently they are at 67). The Liberals, who do not currently enjoy official party status, will need to increase their seat total to 11 or more (they currently only hold 7 seats). The NDP will be looking to increase their

current seat total from 38 and either form government or remain as the official opposition.

To stay up to date on current polling and seat projections, please feel free to visit [CBC's Ontario Votes 2022 Poll Tracker](#), and for riding-by-riding projections, visit [388Canada.com](#).

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

RAISE AWARENESS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED PEER AND FAMILY SUPPORT DURING THE ELECTION!

Elections are a great opportunity to get the word out about the importance of community-based peer and family support and the value that our local Consumer Survivor Initiatives (CSIs) and Peer Support Organizations (PSO) provide in ridings across the province.

The OPDI encourages each of its member organizations to reach out to each provincial candidate in your riding between now and June 2nd, and invite them to meet with you at your location so you can provide a briefing and a tour to them.

We cannot afford to have our segment of the MH&A sector overlooked, and one of the best ways to do this is to engage with your local elected officials and candidates. Should you need assistance in reaching out to your local candidates, please let the OPDI know and we would be delighted to assist.

Regards,
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