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May 14, 2022

RE: ALS Society of Canada | Green Party of Ontario's Commitments to the ALS community

Dear Tammy,

Thank you very much for sending the Ontario Greens your organization's questionnaire. We appreciate the opportunity to speak on these issues that matter to the individuals and families in this province that are impacted by ALS. I am happy to provide you with a response on behalf of the party.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Crist
Office Manager
Green Party of Ontario

1. The existing pathway for drug access is too long for a person living with ALS and other terminal illnesses. What is your party's position on improving how Ontarians access new drugs?

Ontario Greens understand the quickly shifting nature of ALS and the need to access treatments in a timely manner. We believe that it's important that everybody has access to the treatment they need and deserve. Ontario Greens will partner with the federal government to implement a universal pharmacare program. As an interim measure, we will publicly fund rare disease medications. In addition, we will simplify the system for accessing life-altering treatments that are available to make them less arduous and more timely.

2. In consultation with the broader Canadian ALS community, ALS Canada released a Position Paper - The Time is Now that offers two solutions to getting Health Canada-approved therapies to Canadians living with ALS in a timeframe that more accurately reflects the urgent needs of this community. Will you and your party support the following two priorities, and if so, please explain how:

- a) Your party will work with the ALS community to build a plan that would see Ontario implementing these two solutions and championing the need for quicker reimbursement within all provinces?**

If elected, Ontario Greens would work with the ALS community to build a plan that ensures all ALS treatments, upon approval by Health Canada, be publicly funded on an interim basis.

- a) Your party will work with your counterparts in the federal government to make sure the total time associated with approving and reimbursing ALS therapies takes no longer than 18 months?**

Ontario Greens understand that one of the devastating impacts of ALS is the rapidity of its progression, and that our system is currently overly cumbersome and slow to meet the needs faced by the ALS community. If elected, we will work with the federal government to make sure all ALS treatments are approved, reviewed for public reimbursement and publicly funded through a single expedited time frame. We will also work to simplify the process for receiving treatments that are essential for those faced with this illness. Our plan will also improve integration and connectivity across healthcare service providers through the use of digital data sharing and patient health coordinators to be more supportive of patients with complex care needs, such as those with ALS. We will also increase base funding for home care by 10% and increase PSW salaries to a minimum of \$25 an hour to improve quality access at home.



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