

2014 Queens Park Day Summary

Attendees from Windsor-Essex Chapter: Jennifer Johnston, President; Dana Boyd, Policy & Political Action ENO; Kelly Lawrenson, Membership ENO

February 26th

- Prep dinner for Queens Park the following day.
- 4 Key topics were outlined for the Queens Park Agenda
 - Investment in Registered Nurses
 - Need 17, 600 nurses in Ontario
 - Health System Restructuring
 - Reduce duplication of services by eliminating CCACs and integrating case managers into primary care under the jurisdiction of LHINs.
 - Increase minimum wage to \$14/hr
 - The current increase to \$11/hr does not raise individuals above the poverty line even working full-time.
 - Renewal of the Canada Health Accord
 - CHA expires March 31st, 2014, thus eliminating stable funding for provinces from the Federal Government.

February 27th

- Breakfast with MPPs
 - RNAO representatives were divided into 2 breakfast sittings where we sat with one or more MPPs and discussed the key issues on the RNAO agenda.
 - WE Chapter Reps sat with Taras Natyshak & Percy Hatfield.
 - Following breakfast, RNAO reps sat in on Question Period
 - After lunch RNAO reps sat through presentations from parliamentary parties and were presented with each party's platform on health care in Ontario. Reps heard from:
 - Conservative Party Leader Tim Hudak & Health & Long-term Care Critic Christine Elliott; NPD leader Andrea Horwath & Health & Long-term Care Critic France Gelinas; Liberal Party Leader Premier Kathleen Wynne & Health & Long-term Care Minister Hon. Deb Matthews;
 - RNAO made it a point to ask each party their stance and commitment to the 4 agenda issues brought forward, among other tough questions from the audience.

February 28th

- Follow-up discussion to Queens Park Day: pros & cons; ways to improve
- Discussion on the new format to Queens Park this year (breakfast meeting rather than office meetings)
- Presentation from IT regarding approaching media, media releases, letters to the editor, etc.
- Discussed social media such as Twitter and how it can be effective.
- Presentation regarding Dying with Dignity.

Prepared by Kelly Lawrenson