

Join the Campaign

Write to your MPP

Your MPP is interested in the priorities of their constituents. Use the message below to write to your local MPP by letter or e-mail about the **Dress Purple Day** campaign and the need to strengthen social infrastructure in communities across Ontario. We recommend personalizing your message by explaining why the campaign and social infrastructure matter to you.

Look up your riding and find your MPP [here](#).

Template Letter

[NAME]

MPP for [NAME OF RIDING]

[CONSTITUENCY OFFICE ADDRESS]

Dear MPP [NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME] and I am one of your constituents in [NAME OF RIDING].

Every October, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) and children's aid societies and Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being Agencies (child welfare agencies) across the province, in partnership with government, community-based organizations, service providers, direct service staff, and individuals, raise awareness about the important role individuals and communities play in supporting children, youth, and families facing challenges through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign.

The Dress Purple Day campaign aims to raise awareness about the supports and services available in communities across Ontario, including through child welfare agencies, and how they can be accessed. However, many children, youth, and families cannot easily access community-based programming and initiatives. In some communities, the necessary supports and services just do not exist or there are lengthy wait times that make access impossible.

Earlier this year, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario (FAO) reviewed and released a report on the spending plan of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The FAO estimated that Ontario has allocated \$3.7 billion less than is required to fund existing programs and announced commitments. Further, the FAO projected continued shortfalls in the coming years.

Additionally, the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN) recently released a report with alarming findings regarding the health of the nonprofit sector. In *2023 State of the Sector*, ONN shared results over the past four years which demonstrate that the demand for services and supports has been increasing, nonprofits are facing worsening economic hardships, and there is a persisting shortage of human resources. They also showed that nonprofits are cutting back programs and services to cope, waitlists are growing, and the number of closures is climbing.

That's why, this year, OACAS is calling on Ontario to step up and strengthen social infrastructure in communities across the province.

Systemic gaps in access to community-based organizations and service providers delivering culturally relevant and responsive services that centre the social determinants of health are acutely felt by Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQ+ children, youth, and families, including those with complex needs (i.e., social, emotional, developmental, mental health and addictions, etc.). These gaps are only compounded by location. Children, youth, and families living in Northern, rural, and remote parts of Ontario face unique challenges in accessing the right care, at the right time, close to home.

The province must provide community-based organizations and service providers with adequate take immediate action to ensure community-based organizations and service providers across the province have adequate resources (i.e., funding, staff) to truly respond to the increasing needs of children, youth, and families and effectively work in partnership.

I urge you to lend your voice and join OACAS in calling on Premier Ford to ensure that children, youth, and families have all the resources they need to thrive in their communities.

Sincerely,

[INSERT SIGNATURE]