



Spinal Cord Injury Ontario 2018 Ontario Election Questionnaire

Dear Candidate,

For more than 70 years, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario (SCIO) has led the way to profound change for people living with spinal cord injury. We are fiercely committed to our vision: *People with spinal cord injuries living the life they choose in a fully inclusive Ontario*. We are committed to an equitable and accessible province for all.

Today in Ontario, 33,000 people live with spinal cord injury and at least one new injury occurs every day.

In this Ontario election, we are working to raise awareness of our issues and seek commitment to real solutions that will allow all people with spinal cord injuries and other physical disabilities to live the life they choose in a fully inclusive Ontario

We are asking for your response to some of our key issues below. We will distribute this questionnaire to all candidates in every riding in the province, the three main parties and their leaders. We are asking for a timely response and will post all responses received on the Campaign 2018 page of our [SCI Ontario website](#).

Ultimately, we are working to build a coalition of champions who are committed to eliminating barriers to full participation for all people living in Ontario. We sincerely hope that we can count on you.

Below are the questions. Please email your responses to Pamela at pamg@sciontario.org

Thank you in advance for your participation

Sincerely,

The Spinal Cord Injury Community

For more information on these and other issues, please visit our website at sciontario.org or contact Pam at pamg@sciontario.org



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Access to Mobility Devices across Ontario

Mobility devices – such as manual and motorized wheelchairs - allow people to live, play and work independently and, for those with a permanent disability, should be considered a human right over their lifetime.

- 1. Would you support increasing the subsidy for Assistive Devices Program from 75% to 90% and expand the program to cover more needed devices to assist in full mobility and participation?**
- 2. Would you work with key stakeholders to address inefficiencies within this sector?**
- 3. What timeline would you commit to?**

Access to Medical Supplies in Ontario

There is currently no province-wide comprehensive medical supply coverage program for those with permanent medical supply needs. For instance, every person who uses intermittent catheterization should be able to rely on full coverage of catheters, so they can use a clean catheter each time they need one. Of the 25 top economic countries in the world, only Canada and Argentina do not have policies restricting the re-use of a catheter.

- 1. Would you support a province-wide comprehensive medical supply coverage program for those with permanent medical supply needs? And a subsidy/rebate that makes those medical supplies vastly more affordable?**
- 2. Would you support an Ontario health policy restricting the re-use of catheters and advocate for a national policy?**

Accessible Health Care for All

In Ontario, if a person has a heart condition, there are defined processes and supports in place to ensure optimal health care. Similarly, for those who are diagnosed with cancer, each individual is guided by a health care team and goes through a process that defines the best treatment. So, what happens if you have a spinal cord injury? There is a clear road map for the first four months and then it is less clear after that. Health care support gets harder to access and further from home.

- 1. Will you and your Party commit to build and properly fund a network of health care supports that will provide a high level of care for people with complex needs, in the communities where they live?**

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Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Ontario has in place the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act to adopt practices that **eliminate** barriers to participation of individuals with disabilities. The province made a commitment to be fully accessible by 2015. We are off course. We need a government to put us back on track and make a fully inclusive Ontario a priority.

- 1. What specifically will you and your Party do to ensure that the province is fully accessible in just 7 short years?**