



Sept 8th, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
5th Floor 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Email: christine.elliott@pc.ola.org

Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Email: stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Dear Honorable Christine Elliott & Honourable Stephen Lecce:

Re: Barrier to education caused by dire shortage of Community Nurses for Medically Fragile Children and Youth

Ontario Disability Coalition would like to request a virtual meeting for a group of parents of medically fragile children and youth. These families are unable to send their children to school this year due to the nursing shortage.

It is every student's right to attend school so finding a solution is critical and urgent. As every school day counts. The families impacted have children that tend to require 24/7 care and are literally exhausted as many are covering unfilled day/night shifts as well. This is also a safety issue as parents are burning out.

Could we bring a small group of caregivers together to share their challenges and discuss several possible solutions? We'd like to meet with decision makers that can break down barriers with both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

A few solutions we have in mind that we would like to discuss.

- Home and Community Support Services could benefit from a central helpline? Where families can report serious Home Care issues like ongoing unfilled shifts and barriers to education.
- Families would like to see data collected around these unfilled nursing shifts reported in a transparent and accountable manner to the public.



- More private agency need to be considered to address these shortage
- FPMC nurses that are insured should be allowed to work in schools
- In some case work with qualify school staff to do some of the required nursing roles

As these students are missing school, we hope this meeting request can be seen as URGENT as there should be no staffing barriers to an education in Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope to hear back from you as soon as possible as every day lost is detrimental.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sherry Caldwell'.

Sherry Caldwell
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CC: Honourable Minister Merrilee Fullerton
CC Mr. Mason Sanders Director of Stakeholder Relations MCCSS,

CC NDP MPP Joel Harden
CC NDP MPP Monique Taylor
CC NDP MPP France G linas
CC GREEN Mike Schreiner
