

TEMPLATE LETTER TO CAMPAIGNS/CANDIDATES

This is a sample email/letter that you can send to the candidate or the campaign – just remember to remove all italicized placeholders and replace them with the appropriate information.

Subject: How will the (Insert Political Party/Candidate Name) Support Those with Developmental Disabilities?

[MONTH] XX, 2025

[Mr./Ms.] [FIRST NAME] [LAST NAME]

[Candidate, Riding Name]

Via email: *[EMAIL]*

Dear *[MR./MS.] [CANDIDATE LAST NAME]*, On behalf of *[Insert local agency]*, we are writing to you regarding the 52,000 adults with intellectual disabilities who are languishing on the Developmental Services (DS) waitlist in Ontario. Since 1993, successive Ontario Governments, regardless of political party, have increased core funding to support agencies by less than 7%, while the cost of living has soared by over 60% over that same time. Developmental services agencies across the province, including here in *[INSERT NAME OF YOUR RIDING]*, say the system is no longer sustainable.

Many people waiting for life-changing support and services have been on waitlists for years-some for decades. This ongoing crisis has left thousands of vulnerable people and their families without the resources and stability they desperately need to live full, meaningful lives in their communities.

Immediate action is required to ensure they are not forgotten. As a candidate for *[Insert Political Party]*, we are asking you to clarify your party's stance and provide a proposed solution to address these critical issues. If you form the next government, what will you do to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive the necessary support and care they need in *[Electoral district or community]* and across Ontario?

As part of the **#WaitingToBelong campaign**, launched in 2024, Community Living Ontario, OASIS, their member agencies and others in the DS Sector have been actively working to bring attention to this matter. However, without the government's cooperation and a commitment to fully fund the DS waitlist, this incredibly important issue cannot be resolved.

[Insert Here Additional Details on the DS Sector Challenges, Your Agency's Additional Concerns and unique challenges your agency is facing]

This is an opportunity to outline [Insert Political Party]'s plan and make a significant impact on the lives of the 100,000 Ontarians with intellectual disabilities, their families, and the Developmental Services agencies that support them.

We appreciate your consideration of this urgent matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Organisation]

[Your Contact Information]