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Thursday 20 March 2014

Jeudi 20 mars 2014

Speaker
Honourable Dave Levac

Clerk
Deborah Deller

Président
L'honorable Dave Levac

Greffière
Deborah Deller

all members in this House support that motion when it's debated on May 8 to ensure that seniors and people with disabilities in York region are properly cared for.

LA FRANCOPHONIE

M. John Fraser: Je suis ravi de me lever dans l'Assemblée aujourd'hui pour rendre hommage aux francophones non seulement en Ontario mais autour du monde. Nous célébrons aujourd'hui le 16^e anniversaire de la Journée internationale de la Francophonie.

Today we celebrate the 16th anniversary of the International Day of la Francophonie, a celebration of French language and cultures around the world.

En tant que pays bilingue, nous sommes très chanceux d'avoir deux langues qui nous relie à de nombreux autres pays.

This connection not only enhances our arts and culture, it also benefits our trade and economy. Cette connexion améliore non seulement nos arts et notre culture mais aussi notre commerce et notre économie.

Dans ma circonscription d'Ottawa-Sud, il y a plusieurs francophones qui sont nés en Afrique, en Asie et en Europe. Ils enrichissent notre communauté, et je les remercie pour leurs contributions.

JIM FLAHERTY

Mr. John O'Toole: My speech today is about a very good friend of mine and of this House. I rise to pay tribute to my friend and our colleague Jim Flaherty. Over the past several years, Jim has had a steady hand guiding Canada through our most challenging economic times since the Great Depression. He's been the only finance minister to serve in the Harper government.

In this House, Jim Flaherty served as the MPP for Durham Centre and later Whitby–Ajax. He was a former finance minister of Ontario and a very successful finance minister, as well as Deputy Premier. He also held the portfolios of Attorney General; native affairs; enterprise, opportunity and innovation; labour; Solicitor General; and correctional services. It was my privilege to serve as Jim Flaherty's parliamentary assistant when he was the Minister of Finance, where we challenged many issues.

Despite his demanding roles in cabinet, he has always been optimistic, friendly and willing to help our neighbours, his community and a local politician like myself. Former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, now governor of the Bank of England said, "Jim Flaherty has exhibited the very best of Canadian virtues in service to" his country and the people.

With his retirement from his duties as federal finance minister, I am confident the members will wish Jim, Christine—who is the member for that riding now—and their sons Galen, John and Quinn all the best in Jim's future plans.

I personally thank you, Jim. I consider you the most successful public servant ever to come from the region of Durham.

WEARING OF RIBBONS

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport on a point of order.

Hon. Michael Chan: I believe, Speaker, that we have unanimous content to wear ribbons to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): The Minister of Culture, Tourism and Sport is seeking unanimous consent to wear the ribbons for this special day. Do we agree? Agreed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MPP SALARY FREEZE ACT, 2014

LOI DE 2014 SUR LE GEL DES TRAITEMENTS DES DÉPUTÉS

Mr. Sousa moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 177, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act / Projet de loi 177, Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'Assemblée législative.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): The member for a short statement.

Hon. Charles Sousa: Mr. Speaker, I'll make my statement during ministerial statements.

VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATIONS ACT, 2014

LOI DE 2014 SUR LE DON DE SANG VOLONTAIRE

Ms. Matthews moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 178, An Act to ensure that blood and blood constituents are donated freely / Projet de loi 178, Loi visant à assurer la gratuité du don de sang et de composants sanguins.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

First reading agreed to.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): The member for a short statement?

Hon. Deborah Matthews: Speaker, I'll give my remarks during ministers' statements.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): The member from Cambridge on a point of order.

Mr. Rob Leone: Mr. Speaker, I believe you'll find unanimous consent to reserve four seats in the front row on the left-hand side for government staff and four seats on the right-hand side of the room for opposition staffers in each committee room of the Legislative Assembly, and I'd like to move that.

Interjection: It's out of order.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): I'm not going to rule it out of order. What I'm going to suggest to the member is that I'm seized with this issue already. I am dealing with it, and I would appreciate the opportunity for me to complete my seizing of the moment. If the member would remove that, I would appreciate it.

I recognize the member from Cambridge.

Mr. Rob Leone: I'll withdraw that motion then, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): I thank the member from Cambridge for his consideration.

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STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

MEMBERS' COMPENSATION

Hon. Charles Sousa: I'm pleased to rise today for the introduction of the MPP Salary Freeze Act, 2014. Since the beginning of the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, the people of Ontario have taken great strides to help the province of Ontario regain its footing. We are all in this together. In order to help grow the economy, this government has been focused on reforming public services to control spending while maintaining and improving the quality of public services. Our efforts have proved to provide great results.

For the past two years, growth in program expenditures overall has been held to less than 1%. Last year, total government spending fell for the first time in more than a decade. Ontario public service sector wage settlements continue to be below the average of private sector, municipal sector and federal public sector settlements.

We're proud of these accomplishments, yet we know there's more to do. This government remains committed to eliminating the deficit by 2017-18. To do so, we're taking a measured and disciplined approach to balancing the budget while continuing to invest in public services that Ontario families rely on.

We're accomplishing this through a variety of measures, including making key investments in infrastructure, focusing on enhancing skills and training, assisting our youth in obtaining jobs, building our knowledge-based economy and supporting our small businesses. But the fact remains that, with over half of all government expenditures going towards compensation, we cannot achieve our goals and grow the economy without taking measures to restrain growth in public salaries.

In this area, I am proud to say that this government has led by example. In 2009, we introduced wage freezes for all Ontario MPPs. It was the right thing to do, to show our commitment to eliminating the deficit, in part by restricting the growth of compensation in the public sector. In 2010, we extended the salary freeze for MPPs for an additional two years. In 2012, we extended it

further for two years, bringing the total to five years. Once again, it was the right thing to do.

Now, as part of this government's ongoing commitment to responsible fiscal management, I am proud to stand here today to introduce this bill, the MPP Salary Freeze Act, 2014. This act, if passed, would extend the pay freeze for all MPPs until after the budget is balanced in 2017-18. No pay increases would take effect until April 1, 2019, after the public accounts confirm a balanced budget. The government is continuing to lead by example, as it has been consistent and clear that there is no room in the budget to fund incremental increases in compensation.

Our government will continue to take a determined and disciplined approach to eliminating the deficit. Ontario's is the leanest government in Canada. But with over half of the budget going to the cost of compensation, we must all do our part.

I look forward to the discussion that this legislation will generate on this important matter, and I appreciate the attention that I know members will give it.

BLOOD DONATION

Hon. Deborah Matthews: I rise in the House today to introduce the Voluntary Blood Donations Act that, if passed, would prohibit payments to donors for their blood and plasma, a component of blood. Before I continue with my remarks, I very much want to acknowledge a number of safe blood advocates and family members of victims of the tainted blood scandal who are with us today in the House. I'm pleased to welcome Ann Harrington, Ian DeAbreu, David Harvey, Mike McCarthy, Kat Lanteigne, Antonia Swann, Graeme Ball and Karen Plater. They represent the thousands of people who are supportive of this. I also very much want to acknowledge some staff from my ministry who have worked very hard to bring this proposed legislation forward and who are also joining us in the House today. Louis Dimitracopoulos, Mahindan Kanakarathnam and Vinessa Redford, thank you so much for the work you do.

The principle of voluntary donation is critical to Canada's blood system. It was enshrined in our blood system after the tainted blood scandal of the 1980s. The Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada, also known as the Krever commission, upheld the principle of voluntary donation in its 1997 report.

The commission recommended that donors of blood and plasma should not be paid for their donations, except in rare circumstances. It also recommended that Canada's national blood system be administered by a single, integrated national blood service.

I stand strongly in support of Canada's voluntary blood donation system. I'm proud of our volunteer donors, and I strongly support Ontarians as they continue giving blood and plasma voluntarily.

But as members may have heard, Health Canada has received a licence application from a private, for-profit

company seeking to open plasma collection sites in Ontario that would pay people for their plasma, which would likely be sold for a profit to manufacture plasma protein products for the international market.

Let's be clear: This company would not benefit Ontario patients, but there is a risk, jeopardizing our voluntary donation system. That's why I wrote to the federal health minister in March 2013, asking Health Canada to refrain from granting approval of any new paid donor blood or plasma clinics until there has been an open consultation with provincial health regulators, care providers, Canadian Blood Services and Canadians. I also reiterated my position that the integrity of our voluntary blood donor system must not be compromised.

Unfortunately, the federal government decided to leave the decision to permit or prohibit payment for blood or plasma to the provinces. As a result, I recently wrote to my provincial and territorial colleagues, encouraging them to take a pan-Canadian approach in opposing paid plasma collection anywhere in the country.

Ontario's position is crystal clear: We stand firmly against payment for blood or plasma donations. We hope other jurisdictions agree.

However, until now, no legislation has been proposed in Ontario that would prohibit paying for blood donations. As a first step, we've already amended regulations to strengthen licensing requirements for labs and specimen collection centres to prohibit paying donors for their blood or blood constituents, including reimbursement of expenses or other forms of compensation.

Today, I'm taking the next step by introducing new legislation, the Voluntary Blood Donations Act, 2014, that would, if passed, protect the integrity of the province's public, voluntarily blood donor system. This bill would prohibit all individuals or corporations from providing payment or offering to provide payment to a blood or plasma donor. Likewise, under this bill, donors would be prohibited from accepting any payment in return for their donation.

The proposed legislation would also amend the Laboratory and Specimen Collection Centre Licensing Act to authorize regulations to make it clear that the activity of blood and plasma collection must be licensed under this act. It would expand the public interest grounds to deny a licence for new blood collection facilities, and it would strengthen our lab enforcement regime so we can take quick and decisive action in case of violations.

The stand we are taking upholds the recommendations that came out of the Krever commission report.

Over the past year, I have heard from many health care organizations and individual Ontarians, including tainted blood victims, who are opposed to private, for-profit plasma collection. Mike McCarthy, who has joined us today, is the former vice-president of the Canadian Hemophilia Society. Here's what Mike McCarthy had to say: "The Ontario government's decision to ban paid plasma clinics is a great relief to Canadians who suffered from tainted blood through past mistakes. Ontario is demonstrating it has heeded the lessons of the past and is

committed to protecting our volunteer blood supply system."

Hematologist Dr. Lois Shepherd, a pathology professor at Queen's University, said, "For me, the bigger concern is that we do rely on volunteer blood donors in Canada, and if we're attracting younger people to be paid donors as plasma donors, they are going to be pulled out of a population of people that might potentially be committed red cell whole blood donors."

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I agree with them wholeheartedly. There is no identified need for such a parallel system in Canada, since we are fortunate to have a well-managed, centralized system, with strong quality assurance and oversight measures. It is now recognized as one of the safest in the world.

I have full confidence in Canada's national blood system, and I know that Canadian Blood Services has the ability to successfully manage the blood and blood product supply for Ontarians. More importantly, we must not allow our cherished health care system and voluntary blood donation system to be compromised.

I want to assure the members that this decision to prohibit payment for blood or plasma in the province would not negatively impact or reduce the supply or availability of these products for Ontarians. We all know that blood donation saves lives. I encourage all Ontarians to donate blood if they are able to do so.

We are taking this strong step against the paid blood donation to maintain the integrity of the voluntary blood donation system, and that's something that I believe all members can stand behind. I urge all members to support our proposed legislative changes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Hon. Michael Coteau: I rise to remind my colleagues that tomorrow, March 21, is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I spoke on this day last year, as did my predecessors before me. This is not a day that we should ever allow to pass without observance.

On March 21, 1960, in Sharpeville, South Africa, police opened fire and killed 69 people. Those people had been demonstrating, peacefully, against their country's apartheid "pass law." This was an internal passport system designed to make it easier to segregate the population and limit the movements of black South Africans.

Six years after what will be remembered as the Sharpeville Massacre, the United Nations proclaimed March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In so doing, the UN called on the international community to increase its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. I am sad to say that the reason we are still observing this day, more than 50 years later, is because there is so much more work to be done.

It happens that in the past year the world lost a man who could certainly have testified to that. The late

Nelson Mandela died this past December. At the time of the Sharpeville Massacre, he was on trial in South Africa for high treason, which is another way of saying that he was on trial for being a member of the anti-apartheid African National Congress. He was found not guilty on that charge, but as the world knows, he was tried again and jailed for 27 years. He survived and emerged to become the president of South Africa, and a worldwide symbol of the fight against racism.

Speaker, Nelson Mandela did not live in Ontario. If he had lived in Ontario today, he would not have faced the trials that he faced back then. If Nelson Mandela had lived in Ontario, he would have observed how people from over 200 countries, speaking more than 250 languages, can live and work peacefully together.

Since 1962, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the first in Canada, has prohibited discrimination on several grounds, including race. In keeping with the spirit of that code, our government made it clear last fall that Ontario has no intentions to prohibit or restrict freedom of expression and religion in public places. This House later affirmed that decision unanimously.

Never before in the history of this planet has a place like Ontario existed. The incredible, beautiful diversity of race, culture and religion that we have here in the province of Ontario is the envy of many nations around the globe.

Our free and progressive society has given us Lincoln Alexander, novelist Lawrence Hill, singer Molly Johnson, hockey player Nazem Kadri and many, many others, yet even in Ontario, we must continue to remember the struggles of those who fought for the freedom that we enjoy here today. We must continue the work that they started, so that one day racial discrimination will be a distant memory in Ontario's past, so that one day, we will be able to say, as the late Nelson Mandela did say, "Let freedom reign. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement."

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): It is now time for responses.

MEMBERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Victor Fedeli: I'll be responding to the salary freeze act. Speaker, all of us in Ontario have a part to play in turning our province around and getting our finances headed in the right direction. Sadly, this government continues to feel that it's more important to appear to be doing something than taking real action. Our caucus continues to support an across-the-board wage freeze so the burden is shared equally. Instead, this government's failed wage freeze saw increases given in eight out of 10 contracts over the past years.

This government continues to tinker around the edges and, as we proved through our own internal documents this week, has no plans to balance the budget. This government's spending and deficits are out of control and they're causing Ontarians to lose jobs. Debt and deficits are a major and immediate threat to our province's ability

to attract more jobs as high taxes and user fees drive businesses out of the province. Without urgent action, Ontario will lose more jobs and government will not be able to afford things that we care about, like health and education programs.

We need a government that will implement a turn-around plan immediately. Our caucus is prepared to do our part. Unfortunately, this government, propped up by the NDP, have failed to do theirs.

BLOOD DONATION

Mrs. Jane McKenna: I'm responding to the Voluntary Blood Donations Act. I want to acknowledge the tabling of the Voluntary Blood Donations Act. It's very important legislation that is difficult for me to comment on, having not seen the bill or had an opportunity to debate its contents in caucus.

Two comments: (1) Our laws governing the blood supply must be unambiguous and principled. (2) This legislation should have been debated long before now in anticipation of the globalization of the plasma marketplace.

The opening of a Toronto clinic by a private company with a plan to harvest plasma from Canadians and pay them \$25 has raised serious questions. I remember how shocked I was to learn that 30,000 people unknowingly received blood that was infected with HIV and hepatitis C in 1980—thousands had their lives cut short—from a blood supply system we were assured was safe. What we didn't know was that blood purchased for money from disreputable sources in the United States had infected our blood supply. The Krever commission recommended against paying donors for their blood.

Above all, we must ensure that trust and faith in our blood supply system is maintained.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Todd Smith: Tomorrow we'll celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day was brought about because in 1960 police fired upon and killed 69 protestors in Sharpeville, South Africa. The protestors were speaking out against racist apartheid laws at the time. The day was proclaimed in 1966 by the United Nations in commemoration of the protestors who died on that day.

As the father of two little girls of Caribbean Canadian heritage, I have a very real and very personal appreciation for the importance of recognizing days like this. I'm thankful that my little girls have had the opportunity to grow up here in Ontario and in Canada where they would have the opportunity to go to school and play hockey and soccer and grow up with kids from many different cultural backgrounds.

This day helps us to celebrate what makes our country great. We're a nation full of immigrants. We're a nation

of people who came here with the hope of seeking a better future.

As we celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination tomorrow, we must remember from a cultural perspective that we do have a bright future to look forward to, and there is still some work to do.

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It's unfortunate that we still have discrimination in our province that exists. In our province today, in 2014, the Ontario Federation of Labour president referred to Ukrainian protesters currently demanding democracy as fascists and thugs and anti-Semites. These comments are still being made in our province today, and it's completely unacceptable. I call on all parties in this Legislature to denounce this kind of vitriolic and hateful talk in our province.

BLOOD DONATION

M^{me} France Gélinas: I rise to talk about the Voluntary Blood Donations Act, an act that is so, so, so late.

Since Health Canada finished its consultation on the issue and tabled its report on July 26, 2013, the minister knew that she needed to act. How do I know that? Well, I know she was aware that she needed to act because I talked to her about it on a number of occasions. I and many other people, some of them sitting in the gallery right now, wrote to her about the need to act and to act now. I put questions on the order paper, begging her to act on this issue and to ban paying for plasma or any other blood product. I asked her questions in the House. I suppose that I should have hired pyrotechnics or maybe a banner at the end of the tail of a plane to get her attention on this issue. But it didn't matter what I and many other people were doing. She did not act. She did not act until now.

Do you know what "now" means, Mr. Speaker? It means that we now have Canadian Plasma Resources, that has signed a lease right here in downtown Toronto, on Adelaide Street—number 82, to be precise. They have spent \$6 million on leasehold improvements; on purchases of all of the equipment they need; on recruitment, hiring and training of 30 staff; and on recruitment of donors. They have opened their doors; they have welcomed their first donors.

Why didn't the minister act before? With her delay in putting forward this bill, she failed at her most important task of all, and that is to protect our health care system. The minister talked about risk. The risks are huge. Once you attack the trust in our health care system, you attack the foundation.

What is clear right now is that we have this private, for-profit company that is already open. They have started to welcome donors to their facility.

Everybody talked about the Krever report that was done. That was 30,000 people who got infected when our blood system was not looked after carefully. If the minister has but one task that she needs to do, it is to protect

our health care system. Right now, by those delays, she has failed in her basic responsibility to protect our health care system.

This bill could have been introduced in September. It could have been, and should have been, introduced in October. It could have been, and should have been, introduced in November and December—you know where I'm going, Mr. Speaker—but it was not. She waited until the clinic was open and the \$6 million was already spent.

We knew all along. Those people came to see me; they went to see her. They told her and they told me, "We are opening up. We don't think there is a problem. We are forging ahead."

I realize that I've taken the time of my colleague who also needs to talk. I needed to get this off my chest.

This bill is so, so late. Damage has already been done to the donors, and this is a real shame.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Michael Prue: With the minute or so I have left, I'd like to first talk about the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is going to take place tomorrow. As has been said, this is a commemoration of the 1960 massacre at Sharpeville.

But I think what has not been said, and what needs to be said here today, is that Nelson Mandela, a very great man, when he was bringing the Constitution to the people of South Africa, went to Sharpeville—that's where the Constitution was proclaimed—and he stated the following, and I don't think truer words could ever be said: "Out of the many Sharpevilles which haunt our history was born the unshakable determination that respect for human life, liberty and well-being must be enshrined as rights beyond the power of any force to diminish."

This is the international year—the United Nations has said our focus this year should be on leaders and leaders' ability to influence anti-racist activities and thoughts and deeds.

We are the people who make the laws; we are the people, hopefully, who provide guidance; and we are the people who serve as role models. It is our responsibility to ensure we do that in all of our actions and deeds every day so that any discrimination that does exist in Ontario is outlawed.

There's not time for me to talk about the other issue. Thank you.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): You're right. I thank all members for their statements.

The Minister of Finance is seeking a point of order.

Hon. Charles Sousa: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent that the order for second reading of Bill 177, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act, be immediately called and that the question be put on the motion for second reading of the bill without debate or amendment, and that the bill be ordered for third reading, and that the order for third reading of Bill

177 be immediately called and that the question on the motion for third reading of the bill be put without debate or amendment.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): Mr. Sousa is seeking unanimous consent that the order for second reading of Bill 177, An Act to amend the Legislative Assembly Act—

Interjection: Dispense.

The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac): Dispense? Dispensed.

Unanimous consent is being sought. Do we agree?

I think I heard a no.

It is now time for petitions.

PETITIONS

BLOOD DONATION

M^{me} France Gélinas: I have this petition that comes from all over Ontario, and it reads as follows:

“Whereas we, the undersigned residents of Ontario, draw the attention of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to the following:

“Thirty thousand Canadians were infected with HIV and hepatitis C via tainted blood in Canada and it killed thousands of Canadians and destroyed families.

“We spent \$17 million on a publicly funded federal inquiry, namely the Krever inquiry, that revealed blood from a paid donor system was a key factor in Canadians receiving tainted blood.

“Billions were spent on top of the inquiry in compensation to those who received tainted blood and their families in part due to Canada’s reliance on blood from paid donors.

“The Krever inquiry recommended that blood be treated as a public resource and that Canada should not move to a paid blood donor system.

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“Your petitioners request the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not issue or approve a licence to Canadian Plasma Resources. Further, we request the Legislative Assembly of Ontario implement legislation that ensures no new paid blood donor clinics be allowed to open in Ontario. It is the responsibility of Canadian Blood Services to oversee blood collection and plasma collection in our country, and our blood plasma is not meant to be a commodity that is bought and sold.”

I fully support this petition, and the tens of thousands of people who signed it, and give it to Jonah.

MINIMUM WAGE

Ms. Soo Wong: I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas the Ontario government has raised minimum wage by 50% since 2003 and will increase it to

\$11, the highest provincial minimum wage in Canada, on June 1;

“Whereas both families and businesses in Ontario deserve a fair and predictable approach to setting the minimum wage;

“Whereas indexing minimum wage to CPI is supported by business, labour and anti-poverty groups from across Ontario as the best way to achieve that;

“Whereas indexing ensures minimum wage keeps pace with the cost of living, providing fairness for workers and their families and predictability for businesses to plan and stay competitive;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario pass and enact, as soon as possible, Bill 165, Fair Minimum Wage Act, 2014.”

I fully agree with the petition, and I will give my petition to page Zohaib.

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ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TRADES

Mr. Jerry J. Ouellette: I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas Ontario’s tradespeople are subject to stifling regulation and are compelled to pay membership fees to the unaccountable College of Trades; and

“Whereas these fees are a tax grab that drives down the wages of skilled tradespeople; and

“Whereas Ontario desperately needs a plan to solve our critical shortage of skilled tradespeople by encouraging our youth to enter the trades and attracting new tradespeople; and

“Whereas the latest policies from the McGuinty-Wynne government only aggravate the looming skilled trades shortage in Ontario; and

“Whereas the Liberals and NDP defeated an opposition day motion by the PC caucus which was intended to abolish the College of Trades;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“To immediately disband the College of Trades, cease imposing needless membership fees and enact policies to attract young Ontarians into skilled trade careers.”

I affix my signature in support.

REGIONAL CENTRES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Ms. Cheri DiNovo: A petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“December 9, 2013, was a precedent-setting day in this Legislature for Ontario’s most vulnerable citizens. Premier Kathleen Wynne gave a heartfelt and official apology challenging all Ontarians ‘to be led by our sense of moral purpose before all else’ when she publicly, on behalf of the people of Ontario, took responsibility for the profound suffering of the former residents of