



Physicians of Ontario Neurodevelopmental Advocacy

April 11th, 2016.

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The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier Wynne,

Re: Education Accessibility Standard

I am the vice chair of PONDA, an organization of concerned physicians and psychologists who work with children, youth and adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

We are very concerned about the inequity in our current education system. Students with disabilities are unable to access the Ontario curriculum due to the absence of a requirement for educational accessibility in all schools for all types of disabilities. I personally have had a patient who communicates by sign, but does not have access to a signing teacher or signing educational assistant. There are thousands of students with learning disabilities who do not have access to the interventions that are proven to work. Most schools in the province are not fully accessible to students with physical disabilities.

We support the call for an education accessibility standard by the AODA Alliance. This would ensure all students have equal access to an education in this province, and a chance to thrive and develop to the best of their potential.

Sincerely,

Nicky Jones-Stokreef, MD, FRCPC
Developmental Pediatrician

Cc: Minister Liz Sandals, Ministry of Education
Minister Brad Duguid, Ministry of Economic Development, Employment
and Infrastructure

David Lepofsky, chair of AODA Alliance
Patrick Brown, leader of Ontario Conservative party
Andrea Horwath, leader of Ontario NDP



Website: www.ponda.ca