



Jamie West

Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Député provincial, Sudbury

March 18th 2019

Hon. Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services /
Minister responsible for Women's Issues
Hepburn Block 6th Flr,
80 Grosvenor St, Toronto,
ON M7A 1E9

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Hon. Minister MacLeod and Hon. Caroline Mulroney,

I am writing to express my support for the six recommendations presented by the Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses (OAITH) in their 2019 pre-budget submission.

In my riding of Sudbury, the YWCA Sudbury Geneva House is a member of OAITH. Geneva House provides a emergency shelter environment for women and their children escaping abuse, and support services. The community based approach of OAITH members is both economical and highly effective at reaching and assisting those who need it most. Strengthening the supports offered by OAITH members, like the YWCA Sudbury, is vital to reaching our shared goal of ending violence against women and children.

OAITH organizations require continued financial support from the provincial government to sustain these essential services in communities across the province. I ask that you adopt their six recommendations in to the 2019 budget to ensure guaranteed investment in proactive, preventative initiatives that keep women and their families safe.

1. Annualize all fiscal enhancement investments to Violence Against Women funded agencies through MCCSS from the 2018 Provincial Budget;
2. Release and annualize enhancement investments that were planned for MAG funded agencies from 2018 Provincial Budget. – Although there was an announcement

Community Office

4b-555, route Barrydowne Rd. Sudbury, ON P3A 3T4
📞 705-675-1914 📧 JWest-CO@ndp.on.ca

Queen's Park

Room/Bureau 347, Main Legislative Building/ Édifice de l'Assemblée
législative, Queen's Park • Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
📞 416-326-7144 📠 416-326-7280 📧 JWest-QP@ndp.on.ca



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recently that funding would continue, the only enhancement announced is for Sexual Assault Centres. YWCA Sudbury operates the Family Court Support Worker Program which was being subsidized by a grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation to be able to employ a 1.0FTE. The funding provided by MAG only covers a 0.6FTE position, and the demand for this service is much higher than one person can manage. We hoped to see the enhancement and annualization of funds for the Family Court Support Worker Program that were previously announced by MAG;

3. Move forward with a comprehensive action plan, attached to investments to prevent, effectively respond and improve outcomes;
4. Invest in decent, accessible and affordable housing that offers flexibility; transitional housing, affordable stock and portable benefits;
5. Invest in community-based primary prevention programs;
6. Increased OW/ODSP rates, employment/education and access to affordable child care.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jamie West
MPP for Sudbury

cc. Marlene Gorman, Executive Director
YWCA Sudbury
370 St. Raphael St.
Sudbury, ON P3B 4K7

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