



# Deb Matthews

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## Questionnaire Response: Election 2014

Thank you for your thoughtful election 2014 questionnaire. I assure you that improving the health and supports for people with chronic conditions is a priority for me personally, for Premier Kathleen Wynne, and for the Ontario Liberal Party.

In Ontario, as is the case in developed countries throughout the world, chronic diseases are the leading cause of death and disability. Almost 80% of Ontarians over the age of 45 have a chronic condition. We know that if left untreated or managed poorly, chronic conditions can deteriorate and predispose individuals to other chronic conditions. We also know that chronically ill Ontarians are also likely to have more than one chronic disease, which is particularly true for Ontarians with arthritis.

With this in mind, the Ontario Liberal government created the Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (CDPM) Framework to guide the redesign of health practices and systems to improve the prevention and management of chronic disease.

We are working to focus on prevention and keep people in their homes and communities longer. Ontario Liberals are committed to working with patients, advocates and health care providers to build on the chronic disease prevention and management initiatives underway across the province in Asthma, Osteoporosis, and Diabetes so that they can be extended to patients with other chronic conditions such as arthritis.

We know there's always more work to be done. Ontario Liberals look forward to working with our community partners and healthcare providers after June 12<sup>th</sup> so we can build on the progress we've made and ensure there is enhanced awareness and standard of care for arthritis patients in Ontario.

[VoteDebMatthews.ca](http://VoteDebMatthews.ca)

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