



Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

March 26, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone taking part in Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness. I thank the hardworking team at Epilepsy Ontario for making this event possible.

About 95,000 people in Ontario are living with epilepsy — people from all walks of life. They are our friends, neighbours, family members and colleagues. People living with epilepsy and other seizure disorders deserve to enjoy full and independent lives. Epilepsy Ontario takes an active role in ensuring that this goal is achieved, thanks to the organization's tireless efforts aimed at promoting the independence and quality of life of children and adults living with seizure disorders.

I am pleased to say that our government provides a range of supports and services to people living with epilepsy, including coverage of physician visits through the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, coverage of anticonvulsants and/or other medications through the Ontario Drug Benefit Program and coverage of medical devices through the Assistive Devices Program, where applicable. In addition, the government is supporting some specific initiatives aimed at improving the care of and care outcomes for people living with epilepsy. These include base funding for the operation of 23 epilepsy monitoring unit beds across the province, providing a total of \$14.7 million in base funding for epilepsy, vagal nerve stimulation and deep brain stimulation procedures to Ontario's four regional epilepsy centres in 2018-19, and funding to support the Ontario Brain Institute.

Best wishes for a very successful day of raising awareness of epilepsy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Ford'.

Doug Ford
Premier