



PEGGY SATTLER

MPP London West

Députée provinciale de London-Ouest

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Bldg Rm 281, Queen's Park,
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

July 24, 2026

Dear Premier,

It is almost two months since OPSEU workers across Ontario began their job action. As MPP for London West, I am reaching out on behalf of OPSEU workers in my community and the vulnerable Londoners they support to urge your government to prioritize a fair deal to end this strike, something that should have been done weeks ago. Every day that your government stands by brings more hardship for OPSEU workers who are deeply committed to the work they do, and more heartbreak for families whose loved ones rely on the dedication and expertise of trained OPSEU staff.

Premier, as you well know, the issues at the core of this strike require provincial leadership and cannot be resolved locally. It was your government's unconstitutional wage cap imposed through Bill 124, along with years of chronic underfunding for developmental and other community services, that created the crisis in community and social services in the first place. Only your government can provide the emergency funding necessary to ensure that workers' wages reflect the value of the services provided to our most vulnerable Ontarians, and only your government can commit to the long-term funding needed to maintain and improve the community and social services sector. I am imploring you to do your job and fulfill your responsibility to these workers and the vulnerable people they support.

In London, the strike is affecting workers, clients, and families at Community Living London (CLL), one of the largest and oldest non-profit organizations in our city. About 600 of CLL's unionized staff are members of OPSEU Local 166, providing supportive services for over 1,000 individuals with developmental disabilities as well as 24-hour support at 32 residential locations. These programs not only improve health and quality of life for those with developmental disabilities, but also contribute to lower healthcare costs, fewer long-term care admissions, less reliance on emergency shelters, and reduced pressure on families. Yet despite these workers' immense value to our community and our province, their wages are so low that many work second or third jobs, and they are understandably frustrated and angry about your government's refusal to compensate them for wages stolen under Bill 124.

Today, I am writing to share the stories of some of the London West families who have contacted me about the devastating impact of the strike on their loved ones. These families are desperate and heartbroken watching their adult children with developmental disabilities regress and their mental health decline without access to CLL staff and programming. They are anxiously waiting for your government to ensure a resolution to the strike at the bargaining table.

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One constituent's daughter has lived happily with her roommates in CLL supportive housing for six years and is proud of the life she has built in the community. She was regularly attending CLL's "The Hub" five days a week, a space for activities and classes, where she learned new skills and enjoyed social interactions with staff and peers. She is now back living in her childhood bedroom, isolated and withdrawn, with no activities scheduled, no roommates to socialize with, and no understanding of why. The mental pain and anguish inflicted on vulnerable Londoners is obvious. My constituent describes this as "a cruel situation for the most vulnerable members of our society," and believes that her daughter deserves better from the Ford government.

Another of my constituents has been caring for her husband living with Alzheimer's disease, and her son's return home has created significant stress for her household. Residents of her son's CLL group home were split up and relocated when the strike began, and the meaningful relationships built among them were suddenly taken away. She told me how much her son valued his independence, his participation in CLL programs, and his interactions with roommates. This constituent told me she can't possibly replicate the enrichment that staff-run CLL programs provided, and she is exhausted balancing hospital visits for her husband with care and activities for her son.

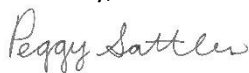
Another constituent is extremely worried about the impact of the strike on her autistic brother. He is non-verbal with a high sensitivity to noise and overstimulating environments, and becomes distressed when there is a change to his routine or his surroundings. He has remained in his CLL group home during the strike but is experiencing extreme physical discomfort and anxiety. Not only has his quality of life plummeted, but he has also been forced to adjust to temporary replacement staff in his home who are "virtual strangers to him," and is unable to understand why. At the same time, this constituent praises the "amazing" employees of CLL for their compassion and work ethic, and emphasizes that they deserve to be fairly compensated.

Finally, a London West constituent and former Certified Building Code Official and Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator is not only concerned about the disruption created by the strike for autistic people, but is particularly worried about the safety implications of using temporary replacement staff. The Ontario Fire Code, Section 2.8, Emergency Planning, mandates critical fire safety training, procedures, and responsibilities for supervisory staff in supported group living residences, as well as sufficient supervisory staff to carry out the duties as required in the fire safety plan. With a family member living in a CLL group home, this retiree warns that a reduced, undertrained group of temporary replacement staff is a recipe for disaster in emergency situations.

Premier, these are just four of the many families who have contacted my office with similar stories and concerns. I urge your government to immediately focus on ending this crisis by compensating OPSEU workers in developmental, community and social services for lost wages resulting from your government's unconstitutional wage cap, and committing to long-term funding in the sector to maintain and improve services.

I look forward to your prompt response to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Peggy Sattler, MPP
London West

cc. Lisa Fewster, President, OPSEU Local 166