



## TVO Election Debate: Health Care and Why Prevention Matters

Chronic diseases account for nearly 80% of all deaths in Ontario yet many can be prevented. But less than 2% of Ontario's health care budget is spent on disease prevention. Where do the four main provincial parties stand on this critical health care issue?

Tune into The Agenda with Steve Paikin on **Tuesday, May 22 at 8 p.m.** as party representatives take part in a debate supported by The Agenda and the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance.

The Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance, a 19-member alliance of non-profit health organizations, is committed to collaborative action on chronic disease prevention. With the release today of its report, *Prevention Matters: Why Ontario needs a CDP Strategy*, the Alliance outlines the evidence around increasing rates and costs of chronic diseases in Ontario and offers recommendations for solving this growing problem.

For example, research shows that measures that increase physical activity, healthy eating and, mental health promotion and reduce alcohol and tobacco use can make a difference in tackling many chronic diseases – from cancer, heart disease, diabetes, lung and, kidney disease to osteoporosis.

Ontario has seen the positive results that have occurred from having a provincial tobacco control strategy. Some \$4.9B was saved in health care costs primarily through reducing smoking over the last ten years. OCDPA calls on all parties to support a similar effort and investment in chronic disease prevention so that Ontarians can achieve optimal health and Ontario can become the healthiest province in Canada.

The report is available at [www.ocdpa.ca](http://www.ocdpa.ca)

The Alliance encourages Ontarians to tune into Tuesday's night debate to get informed about why prevention matters and the vision to promote health and wellness being offered by each of Ontario's four main political parties.

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## About Us

The Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance (OCDPA) is dedicated to improving the health of all Ontarians. The Alliance envisions communities where population and individual health are supported by healthy societal conditions, public policies, and personal behaviours. The Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance's mission is to provide collaborative leadership to support a comprehensive chronic disease prevention system for Ontario.

OCDPA Partners and members include:

Association of Local Public Health Agencies, Canadian Cancer Society (Ontario Division), Canadian Mental Health Association (Ontario), Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Champlain Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Network, Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada, Diabetes Canada, Dietitians of Canada, Health Nexus, Heart and Stroke, Ontario Kinesiology Association, Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health, Ontario Public Health Association, Ontario Society for Health and Fitness, Ophea, Parks and Recreation Ontario, Osteoporosis Canada, The Lung Association, The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

