

NOW IS THE TIME AND OPPORTUNITY TO USE ANY MEANS POSSIBLE TO MAKE SURE THIS AN ELECTION ISSUE AND THAT MS HORWATH AND HER COLLEAGUES PUBLICLY DEFEND THEIR RECORD ON 'SAM BRUNO' AND PET IN ONTARIO.

THE NDP
'PARTY OF THE PEOPLE'
OR HELPING THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT BLOCK PET IN ONTARIO?

With the upcoming 2018 Ontario Elections we have a unique opportunity to demand that the NDP FINALLY be held accountable for the fact that by not bringing up all the information they have had since the beginning on how PET has been blocked from Ontario patients, *they have directly endorsed the Liberal's efforts culminating in Ontario patients having the least number of PET scans/1,000 population in the world when it comes to medical jurisdictions able to, and believe their cancer patients are worthy of having access to the accepted world imaging standard of cancer and other serious human disease.*

- *You now have an opportunity to determine whether Ms. Horwath, Ms. Gelinas, and the other NDP candidates in Ontario deserve the right to supposedly represent the best interests of Ontario patients or not.*

The NDP have known more about how Cancer Care Ontario makes critical decisions affecting Ontario health policy than the Liberals and PC's until more recently. This is because their two 'Health Critics' have been from Sudbury, and I have had extensive interactions with them.

With the upcoming 2017 Ontario Provincial Election it is time that they defend their record on health care and ultimately what they really think about how Ontario patients are investigated and treated under our public health care system.

You can decide for yourselves based on the documents I will provide on social media and my website [petontario.org] whether the NDP Party represents why we should trust and respect politicians, or are they a particularly egregious example of why record numbers of people have lost trust, respect and faith and become so cynical about politicians.

I have said to the NDP more than once, and on record in Hansard, that I resent the NDP the most since they actually market themselves as "The Party of People", of the small person, against government and big business.

HOWARD HAMPTON:



Mr. Hampton was the leader of the Ontario NDP Party from 1996 to 2009.

SHELLEY MARTEL:



Ms. Martel was the NDP Health Critic, and the wife of Howard Hampton, the Leader of the NDP.

A patient in his late forties living in Ms. Martel's Riding with colon cancer had been told 'to get his affairs in order' based on his CT scans. A local news story described a Sudbury colon cancer patient in the same situation, who had a PET scan, which showed a single treatable liver lesion. He scraped together the \$2,500 [cheaper now] to pay for a PET and fortunately it showed a single operable lesion instead of widespread terminal disease as his CT's had determined. The patient's wife, a nurse, went to Ms. Martel with her story. He eventually would die of his cancer several

years later. His wife has had to live with the thought of: *What if he had of had access to PET from the beginning.*

If this gentleman had of been followed by PET, like Barry Stein from Quebec with his Stage IV cancer, would he still be alive today? There is a good chance the answer would be yes.

However, he had the misfortune of living in Ontario.

The patient's wife and I met with Ms. Martel giving all the information and documentation regarding the blocking of PET by the MOH. Most important was a 2004 letter from Dr. Al Driedger from the PET Steering Committee, addressed to Mr. Smitherman, the Minister of Health. In this letter Dr. Driedger made serious accusations about the Liberal's blocking PET because of cost concerns. He also stated that the Liberal government's experts were deliberately denying evidence that favoured PET. This would be confirmed in a 2011 medical article in the Journal of Nuclear Medicine. Although required by law to have someone respond to this letter, ***Mr. Smitherman refused to do so.***

Each June, the Minister of Health meets with the Opposition Health Critics for an open discussion recorded in Hansard, the official record of the government. Ms. Martel met with Mr. Smitherman armed with all the information and documents to stand up for this patient and his wife's concerns and rights.

Ms. Martel did not ask Mr. Smitherman a SINGLE QUESTION that would have embarrassed or put him in an awkward position.

FRANCE GELINAS
CURRENT NDP MPP FROM NICKEL BELT
NDP HEALTH CRITIC



I have known Ms. G  linas for a number of years and for the longest time I believed that she was a decent carrying person who truly believed in the principles of government and the ideals of what her party in theory stands for. However based on my interactions and meetings with her over the last few years, I have come to realize that ultimately she is no different than Mr. Glenn Thibeault. In short, both are archetypal examples of why we are seeing ‘tipping point’ levels of distrust, lack of respect and cynicism about politicians and the bureaucracies they run.

France has championed many issues over her career and deserves credit for doing so. However, her most vocal and prolonged effort has been related to PET scanning in Sudbury. Her positions on PET as the Nickel Belt NDP MPP, doesn’t just impact those in her riding, but as the NDP Health Critic, ultimately her stance impacts all Ontario patients. France would have her constituents believe that she has been working ‘tirelessly’ to bringing Sam Bruno's vision of PET for Ontario cancer patients and a PET scanner for Sudbury to fruition.

- Yet as the ‘facts’ will show, she as much as any politician, made sure that Sam’s message was ‘killed’ and ultimately why the 2017 Ontario Auditor General’s Report notes that Ontario patients have the least number PET scans/1,000 of any country offering PET.
- France, like Sam also knew, that our ‘last place finish in the world of modern medicine’ is the deliberate result of how critical health care decisions are made in Ontario, especially by Cancer Care Ontario and their colleagues at McMaster University.
- As you will see, each time France had the opportunity to come to Sam’s defense, she ‘sat on her hands’.
- Instead her largest presence in the news media has been too stick to ‘no-risk’ positions on PET creating the ‘illusion’ that the NDP were really out there to stand up for the cancer and other patients in Ontario.

AND REMEMBER, EACH JUNE, FRANCE MEETS WITH THE MINISTER OF HEALTH TO SUPPOSEDLY CHALLENGE THEM AND PROMOTE THE NDP’S VISION FOR HEALTH CARE IN ONTARIO!!!

Sometime in I believe 2016, France came to my office in the hospital and I showed her the PET scan of a 39 year old woman with cervical cancer. Had this woman have been allowed a PET scan the year before instead of compulsory CT scans, she might not have had to tell her three young children and her husband, that “mommy is going to die’. France was truly moved by what she saw, and for a while I thought this might finally motivate her to finally take a ‘meaningful stand’ on behalf of Ontario’s patients.

- Instead, the ‘politician in France’ won out and she continued to go for the ‘safe political brownie points’ by demanding a PET scanner for Sudbury and doing everything possible to hide the truth from her constituents.

Here is part of an email I sent France in February of 2016:

"Now would be a good time for you and Ms. Horwath to decide which side of this issue you want to be on. More importantly for you is that you are the NDP Health Critic having made the news many times for your efforts on PET for Sudbury. You are going to be the one who will be on the hotseat, and will be the one everyone remembers."

Further, Sudbury and especially where you live is a very small. Your legacy is going very much going to depend on how you handle this. The reality is you, and your predecessor, Ms. Shelley Martel have absolutely all the documentation indicating the depth of what you know, yet no matter how you look at it, ***you ultimately were part of burying Sam's story.***" (Emphasis added)

When Deb Matthews insulted Sam in the Star by saying:" But Sam got a few things wrong." ***You knew he got nothing wrong, and yet you did not make any attempt to stand up for Sam.*** How are you going to look Cheryl and Frank and Brenda in the eye if it becomes known that in fact this is ultimately what you did. Your best of intentions, blocked by higher ups will mean nothing.

What if one of your neighbours comes up to you and says:" France, you knew about the unethical experiments done on women with Breast Cancer, and that Ontario remains the last jurisdiction on the planet to not make PET available! Why?"

As I said to Glenn [Thibeault] and Dr. Hoskins; I want to work with them not to embarrass them but get PET and improve Health Care in this province.

I offer this to you and Ms. Horwath. I want this to work for you France, but above all I want this to be how the province remembers Sam and get PET not just here, but bring about a fundamental change in our Health Care for the better. Right now, we're just a Boy Scout version of Zimbabwe or Russia.

THE NDP AND THEIR 'CONCERN' FOR THE 30% OF SUDBURY PATIENTS WHO ARE TOO SICK OR UNWILLING TO RISK TRAVELLING TO TORONTO FOR THEIR PET SCANS

In February 2017 France sat next to me at a news conference I gave at Queen's Park on Mobile PET/CT in the province. She is fully aware that from the very first business plan I worked on with Health Sciences north back, as I recall, when Sam was still alive, that Mobile PET was not just more convenient and safer to bring to

the patients in the north , but cheaper to the taxpayer. It was France who recently pointed out correctly that more than 30% of patients from Sudbury who need a PET scan will not get one, since they are too sick or unwilling to drive on treacherous roads to Toronto for their scan. What was France's response?

- *France knew that every reason offered by the Liberals to block Mobile PET/CT in the north varied from the laughable to outright 'alternative facts'.*
- *In the end, like Glenn Thibeault, she would rather the patient I told her about, drive to and from Toronto vomiting in the back seat of the car, rather than fight to bring the Mobile to Sudbury.*
- *France is also aware of why Ms. Wynne, desperately in need of 'good political news' has not announced that seven Ontario communities will have immediate local access to Mobile PET/CT and that this will be cheaper to the taxpayers.*
- *Clearly there must be a HUGE 'downside' for the Liberals to not only NOT announce this but instead spend millions trying to block Mobile PET/CT for seven Ontario communities.*
 - ***So just what is the HUGE downside for the NDP in not bringing this to the public's attention?***
 - ***Only they know, and it is time they told the voters.***

ANDREA HORWATH NDP LEADER:



I wrote Ms. Horwath and tried to interest her as the leader of the NDP to actually act as if they really were 'the party of the people' especially for some of our sickest and most distressed patients. Unfortunately I have lost track of that letter but it would have been typical of my initial approach to politicians in being upbeat about assuming they would want to know the information and take action.

As I had predicted, I didn't even get a reply from Ms. Horwath.

What follows is parts of the email I did eventually send her. And note from the date, this is back in **July 2010!**

It is angry letter, but I am a passionate advocate for my patients, and I was getting tired of dealing with the kind of people who present themselves as wanting to represent the best interests of Ontario voters, and ***are in a position of power and ability to bring about positive changes for patients***, yet all the while simply reinforcing why *THEY DO NOT DESERVE OUR TRUST AND RESPECT*.

"Webster, Dave Dr. <dwebster@hrsrh.on.ca>
Horwath - QP, Andrea; Gelinas, France
Envoyé : Tue Jul 27 13:24:12 2010
Objet : RE:PET

RE:PET

Here are a couple of responses I've made and one is on the SUDBURY STAR WEBSITE.

As you can tell, I have no plans to become a politician and indeed am I very politically incorrect. Very early on I was very respectful in approaching politicians like Shelley Martel, Whitmer ect ect ect...but I have lost the any respect for the political process and most importantly for the politicians we are burdened with in Ontario, and of course not just Ontario.

I guess what I find confusing is why the NDP has had access to all the information on the blatant unethical...not just my opinion, but that of world experts in research..on what the Liberal government has done to cancer patients in this province but won't touch these issues. This of course is only the tip of the iceberg. Suffice it to say, it is blatantly obvious, and will become so to the public that "government Advisory Bodies' are simply mouthpieces for government policy.

So in spite of knowing that Ontario patients are last in the world based on bad science, and worse unethical science, this is not of interest to the NDP.

Would the NDP be willing to stand publically behind the stance you have taken on behalf of cancer patients in this province? Would you be willing to offer up to the voters, political science students, young people in general, and use this as an example of why politics matters, and why they should get involved and get out and vote?

It's the 'smell test' and the question is, where do you Ms. Horwath stand?

If you and your fellow 'politicians' deserved to be treated with respect, I would be the first to do so, and offer up everything and anything I had to

devote to making real change. I have long ago abandoned any such childish notions.

You may say, not good to annoy those who have the power to make change. Until real pressure from the electorate comes for force change on politicians, it sure isn't going to happen from the inside.

I will not be contacting you again. The fact that you, nor France have approached me to get information which might actually assist in getting a PET scanner not just for Sudbury, but indeed for other patients, screams volumes. It will scream louder when the public has access to information not filtered through the skills of an 'unbiased' journalists and their Editorial and Board controls.

France, did you get the irony that the STAR removed the line about your not being interested in the story behind PET that might actually make a difference for Sam and those who follow. That's the beauty of the Internet.

Of interest, in Australia, there were as far as I know jail terms were given to government people for their role in blocking PET in Australia.

D Webster

So like me, you can 'scratch your head' and wonder how France and the NDP have outright allowed the Liberals to get away with what they have, but facts speak for themselves, **THEY HAVE**.

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