

December 3, 2007

PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT MILITARY FAMILIES IN ONTARIO

The McGuinty government intends to introduce legislation in support of military families that, if passed, would exempt Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) eligible military family members moving to Ontario from the waiting period for OHIP coverage, and provide job protection measures for reservists who are called into active duty. The government also plans to increase access to funding for amateur athletes from military families.

OHIP Eligibility

In most cases newcomers to Ontario are subject to a 90 day waiting period for OHIP. Canadian Forces (CF) members and their families are often required to move around frequently and this can result in constant changes to health coverage for these families. This burden can be reduced by exempting OHIP eligible family members from the waiting period and providing them with immediate access to provincially funded health care services.

The proposed act will, if passed, eliminate the OHIP waiting period for eligible military family members moving to Ontario. OHIP eligible spouses and dependants of Canadian Forces members would qualify for all provincially funded health services immediately upon becoming a resident in Ontario.

While the proposed legislation, if passed, could benefit all OHIP eligible military family members who come to Ontario, it would be of special help to families from Quebec because they often must pay fees for physician services upfront during the waiting period before being reimbursed by the Quebec government.

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