Open Access to registered service dogs and owners!

PETITION - To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Whereas, Ontario Regulation 429/07 under *the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* indicates, *"If a person with a disability is accompanied by a guide dog or other service animal, the provider of goods or services shall ensure that the person is permitted to enter the premises with the animal and to keep the animal with him or her unless the animal is otherwise excluded by law from the premises.";* and

Whereas, The Ontario Human Rights Code speaks to the, *"duty to accommodate persons with disabilities…in a manner that most respects the dignity of the person"*; and

Whereas, Despite these provisions, many who require, have been medically recommended for and own professional, trained service dogs, including children with autism, PTSD sufferers and others, continue to be denied access to public places; and

Whereas, In one such case of a Kitchener boy with autism being denied access to have his professional, trained service dog at a Waterloo Catholic District School Board school, an Ontario Human Rights Tribunal ruled *against* specified accommodations for the boy and his dog at school; and

Whereas, Bill 80 *the Ontario Service Dog Act* has been introduced at the Ontario Legislature to strictly prohibit, "*denying accommodation, services or facilities to an individual or discriminating against an individual with respect to accommodation, services or facilities because the individual is a person with a disability who is accompanied by a service dog.*"; and

Whereas, Service dogs perform a series of vital tasks to support those living with disabilities, including serving in guidance, seizure response, mobility assistance, autism and PTSD support among other medically acknowledged services; and

Whereas, Ongoing denial of access means those requiring services dogs are continuing to face further hurdles beyond the impacts of disability to be allowed the public accommodations they deserve.

***We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows*:**
Open Access to registered service dogs and owners!
Endorse the legislative requirements of Bill 80 *the Ontario Service Dog Act*, to end continued discrimination and ensure those requiring service dogs are no longer denied the essential public access they should already be guaranteed.

Name (printed)	Address – and email optional - (printed)	Signature

Please print, sign and send in to: MPP Michael Harris, 4281 King St. E., Unit 4, Kitchener, ON, N2P 2E9