## 'People are shaken by this. I was shocked,' says Ontario premier

• Continued from page 14

ing statement: "As a father of three, I support the climate that has been created to empower women and girls to come forward and Patrick speak out. Brown's decision to step down to deal with these allegations was the right one."

Oakville PC candidate Stephen Crawford released the following statement on Twitter:

"As a husband and father of four daughters I believe it is a good thing that accusations like those against Patrick Brown are taken very seriously. Anyone guilty of taking advantage of vulnerable women or abusing power over others should be dealt with in strict accordance with our laws.

"The PC party has a tremendous record of service

to the people of Ontario and is much bigger than any 'single member, regardless of role or position."

Meanwhile, Burlington PC candidate Jane Mc-Kenna tweeted: "Harassment of any kind has no place in our community, our province and our country. The allegations made against Patrick Brown are very troubling. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard. I have every confidence that our PC MPPs will take the necessary steps to move forward.".

Oakville North-Burlington PC candidate Effie Triantafilopoulos did not provide comment.

NDP Leader Andrea Horwath told the media she was "pretty disgusted" by the allegations against Brown.

Before Brown stepped

down, his chief of staff, Alykhan Velshi, his campaign manager, Andrew Boddington, his advertising guru, Dan Robertson, and his press secretary Nicholas Bergamini resigned.

Following their departures prominent campaign strategists Joshua Workman and Ken Boessenkool also quit.

resignations Their came as tshe Tories have been gearing up for a June 7 election in which they had high hopes of toppling Wynne's Liberals.

The premier said while there are no plans to delay the vote, she insisted it was not a day to talk about electoral politics.

"People are shaken by this. I was shocked," Wynne told reporters at Queen's Park.

-with files from the Toronto Star

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