

CANADA
Decision
2015

Liberals blast 'ghoulish' Conservative practice

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Doctors will no longer have to sign a letter stating a seriously ill family member will likely die within six months in order for another family member to receive employment insurance while caring for the ill person, if the Liberal government is elected this October.

The announcement was made in Markham-Stouffville federal Liberal candidate Dr. Jane Philpott's Main Street Stouffville office last Thursday. It echoed what Liberal leader Justin Trudeau announced earlier in the day while out in B.C., she said.

"I see, on a regular basis, almost a daily basis, how families are affected when a loved one faces serious illness," Philpott told the gathered media, while flanked by area Liberal candidates Majid Jowhari (Richmond Hill), Bang-Gu Jiang (Markham-Unionville), John McCallum (Markham-Thornhill) and Leona Alleslev (Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill).

"Let me tell you, as a doctor, it's pretty hard to predict who's at risk like that and people who are facing serious illness aren't necessarily facing imminent death," she said.

McCallum went further and called the current request of a doctor's letter stating the person will likely die within six months, as "morbid and ghoulish and unpleasant."

The current program also requires family caregivers to take their six months off all at once.

That criteria will also be eliminated and caregivers will be able to take time off as needed under the Liberals' Employment Insurance Compassionate Care program.

The program will cost approximately \$190 million annually. Each person is eligible for just over \$500 per week or \$13,624 a year, according to Philpott.

This plan requires no increase to Employment Insurance premiums by either the employer or employee, according to Alleslev.

The election is Oct. 19.

Meeting of candidates set

You can hear from your federal election candidates in the riding of Markham Stouffville at a

meeting in Stouffville this fall.

The meeting will be hosted by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce and the Stouffville Sun-Tribune, Oct. 5, from 7

to 9 p.m. at EastRidge Evangelical Missionary Church. The Tenth Line church's auditorium seats 400.

Election day is Oct. 19.

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