Petition to The Legislative Assembly of Ontario

WHEREAS: Health Canada, the Canadian Paediatric Society and the World Health Organization, recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life with continued breastfeeding along with other food sources for up to two years and beyond for optimal health,
AND WHEREAS: Many Ontario health care services lack adequate resources needed to assist women to achieve success for the recommended, well established timeline:

We are asking the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to take a leadership role in ensuring the provision of adequate breastfeeding supports for women in Ontario by;

1. Creating a Provincial Breastfeeding Policy in Ontario,
2. Initiating a process whereby all Ontario Hospitals become Baby-Friendly as per the WHO/UNICEF guidelines,
3. Adequately fund health care providing organizations to properly train all health care providers working with new and expectant mothers in hospital and community settings,
4. Increase the number of both hospital and community based clinics in Ontario,
5. Fund the creation of a provincial "Centre for Excellence for Breastfeeding" which would serve as a training ground for professionals, a centre of research and a fully functioning clinic accessible to all women who require assistance.

Given the documented and well known health benefits to our population and subsequent financial benefits to our health care system, it is irresponsible for our provincial government not to support and increase breastfeeding resources in Ontario.

Name	**Address**	**Signature**