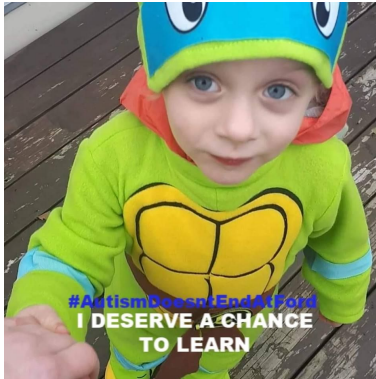


# Adrianna Atkins

RE: My Superhero,  
Marshall

14 Adjala Avenue  
Manitouwadge, ON  
807.228.2880  
adriannatkins@hotmail.com



February 2019

## Mr. Michael Mantha

MPP, Algoma - Manitoulin District

Good day,

My name is Adrianna Atkins. I'm 27 years-old, a single-parent to a beautiful child. I'm educated within the health-care sector. I devoted years of education and then, compassion and due diligence when working within the field. I felt proud as a single-parent that I could provide for my child, while fulfilling my own personal goals. I struggle with mental health issues and a chronic, degenerative condition but with a lot of support, time, effort, I have managed it well.

Times have changed. My dreams are put to a halt - I just had to apply for affordable housing. I can't work yet, I'm educated; my diplomas and certificates are now in frames for only presentation; I'm a single-parent and my presence is always needed - I can't possibly be in two places at once. I don't think Mr. Ford & 'Hon' Lisa MacLeod realize that they have played a major role in the ripple effect; increasing mental health issues, creating more poverty. They have just created more emotional and mental barriers when it comes to families, relationships, and the well-being of parents within the province of Ontario.

My son's name is **Marshall**. **Marshall** is a vibrant, happy, rambunctious human-being, my best friend and the future of the province and country. **Marshall** is 4 years old, living in a rural, isolated community - 400 kms away from Thunder Bay, 400 kms away from Sault Ste. Marie. **Marshall** was diagnosed 1 year ago with severe Autism Spectrum Disorder, an Intellectual Disability, PICA, a petit-mal seizure disorder and considered non-verbal - we were currently waiting for the OAP program.

The government will NOT get to decide his journey, we will - **Marshall** will, his teachers, EA's, school, his *personalized* support systems and family, we will help him. We are his voice until **Marshall** is ready. While we patiently waited for the OAP, we were recommended for several different programs and they came to no avail.

**Why you may ask?** Because "*there are none available for our region*". **My question...** *None available for our region, or our children, or both?* **I have another question: What is Mr. Ford & 'Hon' Lisa MacLeod going to do to increase capacity in Northwestern Ontario where costs skyrocket due to distance and where there is a lack of services?** There isn't one private behavioural service provider available within a 800 km radius.

I'm DEVASTATED! **Could you please enlighten me on how this is something the government supported and implement without looking at the individuals involved, what they require and what the province actually has to provide for them?**

We have members of parliament who are quitting because of this plan - very useful people that they could be taking notes from. Sounds great in a euphoric world where there are professionals available for EVERY CHILD for this increasing disorder. The government can't keep up and this is their way of telling us, "you deal with it".

***Is the government afraid or embarrassed to adopt other Autism Programs and/or funding strategies that have most success with the individuality-concept in Canada - opposed to this new 'Defend For Yourselves' Method?*** I don't blame the families for fleeing.

I live in rural community and we were completely disregarded in this decision, as per usual. This is nothing but privatization at its finest. Being on the spectrum is being uniquely wired, my son, **Marshall**, is still a human-being and one of the future of Ontario, Canada. We need people like you or agency's/organizations to advocate that this is something that we as parents DO NOT agree with... Please be our voice.

They implemented this new budget (*which is missing astonishing \$43 million from the previous one*) with no experience with, no knowledge and clearly, no compassion. *What is the government going to do when all of the money is gone from OW, ODSP and municipal housing* because 23,000k families have no other choice based on a 'plan' they came up with in their nightmares? Families are LEAVING the province - WAKE UP!

Sorry tax-payers. I really am.

#IWouldRatherWait

#WeThe23k

#AutismDoesn'tEndAtFord

#ResignLisaMacLeod

#YouGotMudOnYourFaceYouBigDisgraceKickingKidsOutAllOverThePlace

#FamiliesAreLeavingOntario

**Sincerely and with the heaviest yet strongest heart,**

*A Atkins*

**Adrianna Atkins**

*On behalf of a 4 year old, non-verbal ASD child. Named **MARSHALL**.*