

## **CATHY CROWE, TORONTO CENTRE, NDP CANDIDATE – BIOGRAPHY**

Cathy Crowe is an internationally renowned nurse and housing advocate who has lived and worked in Toronto Centre for over two decades. Toronto Star columnist Jim Coyle calls her “a local icon of all that’s good in humanity.”

A nurse by training, Cathy has made it her life’s work to improve the lives of the homeless and advocate for political change to improve the health and housing of all residents.

Cathy’s work has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. She has been awarded honorary degrees from the University of Victoria, McMaster University, and the University of Ottawa. In 2003, she received an International Human Rights Award in Nursing and in 2004 she was awarded the Atkinson Economic Justice Fellowship.

Her track record of results is clear: The Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, co-founded by Cathy, was largely responsible for a new federal homelessness program that has provided over \$1 billion in emergency relief funds across the country.

Cathy spearheaded a public inquiry that led to government action to fund public health action on tuberculosis outbreaks. In response to the deaths of homeless people, she helped advocates get official status at a coroner’s inquiry sparking new approaches to sheltering street people with addictions.

Cathy was the subject of *Street Nurse*, a documentary film directed by Emmy and Gemini winner Shelley Saywell that aired on the Women’s Channel in the fall of 2002. She is the Executive Producer of two feature-length documentary films *Home Safe Calgary* and *Home Safe Toronto* which chronicle the housing crisis and the impact of this recession on families with children.

Author Naomi Klein recently wrote, “Cathy Crowe is the compassionate heart of this city. That someone of such stunning integrity would run for political office is something close to a miracle.”

Cathy is joining the NDP team because she has seen first-hand the impacts of six years of McGuinty government indifference and neglect on her community – decaying public housing, overflowing food banks, and growing waiting lists for childcare, health care and home care.

Cathy is a former CUPE member who knows the value of public services such as housing, education and childcare. She will fight against the McGuinty Government’s plans to sell-off public assets, cut services in our hospitals and health clinics, and impose an unfair sales tax on working people while spending billions on a corporate tax giveaway. Those are the wrong choices.

Cathy Crowe has been making change in Toronto Centre for 20 years. She is a respected community leader who will speak out for and improve the lives of men, woman and children in the diverse communities of Toronto Centre.