



Friday, February 14, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Subject: If elected, how can you help?

Mission:
Make
Myeloma
Matter

Dear Premier Ford,

Mission:
Maîtriser
le Myélome

We represent myeloma patients from Ontario under the Multiple Myeloma Ontario Advocacy Committee, part of Myeloma Canada, the only national charitable organization for Canadians impacted by multiple myeloma. Today, we ask you to make cancer health a priority, building on the deployment of Ontario's latest Cancer Plan. We are pleased that the Ontario Cancer Plan 6 includes some ambitious goals to improve the performance of Ontario's cancer system and patient outcomes, as well as a clear commitment to tracking and publicly reporting on progress achieved. **This Cancer Plan has the capacity to make a real difference in Ontario cancer patients' lives and cannot be relegated to the sidelines.**

Multiple myeloma, also known as myeloma, is the **second most common blood cancer. 11 Canadians are diagnosed with myeloma every day** and that number has been steadily rising for over 15 years.

According to Statistics Canada, Ontario has the highest per capita incidence for multiple myeloma, and at the same time has the highest 5-year cancer survival rate. This is largely due to the incredible growth in cancer research taking place in Ontario today. **The most promising studies in the country are being carried out in Ontario**, not only for the treatment of myeloma and other types of cancers, **but also to improve the quality of life of Ontario patients, who have to cope every day with the logistical, emotional and financial burden of cancer.**

It's time for Ontario to lead the way and focus on developing concrete solutions to ease the burden of cancer. Among the proposed action in the Cancer Plan 6, we believe that this could be done by:

- Improving access to take-home cancer treatments;
- Implementing community and home support models;
- Leveraging digital solutions to support coordination of care;
- Creating diagnostic services supported by navigation and access to information;
- Delivering cancer screening programs;
- Designing an ambulatory treatment model of care to optimize service and care delivery.
- Integrating data and new evidence leading to health services research and policy recommendations; and;
- Having a consolidated approach for the integration of innovation and technologies in the healthcare system.

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It's crucial that you commit to turning this plan's laudable goals, into tangible improvements in care and treatment, not only for myeloma patients, but for everyone fighting cancer. **Investing in the deployment of the Cancer Plan 6 means investing in the future, and laying the groundwork for Ontario to become a world leader** in the development, commercialization, and delivery of cutting-edge cancer care to people all across the province.

In the event that you are re-elected as Premier of Ontario, we respectfully ask you to walk the extra mile by quickly and effectively integrating Canadian-made innovations to the healthcare system, so Ontario can provide a better quality of life to people affected by cancer.

Some of your current MPPs and their staff met with us and our Ontario multiple myeloma community members at the end of Blood Cancer Awareness Month, **on October 17, 2023**. These meetings offered them a unique opportunity to share the reality of myeloma patients living with this incurable cancer and we thank you for that. Unfortunately, **three of our most engaged ambassadors passed away due to lack of options to treat their myeloma since we met**. Their stories are evidence of a hard truth, **time is a luxury cancer patients don't have**.

Today, we ask for your commitment to bringing Cancer Plan 6 to life and that with a new mandate as Premier of Ontario you will be a leader in making cancer care a priority.

This ambitious plan has the power to change the future of countless Ontarians touched by cancer, who may just today be learning that their lives are changed forever. This is why it is so important for you to take action, ensuring the timely, successful, and sustainable implementation of your government's current and future healthcare plans.

On behalf of the myeloma community in Ontario, we appreciate your attention and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

& the Myeloma Canada Ontario Advocacy Committee

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The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon

Myeloma Canada is the only national charitable organization created by and for Canadians impacted by multiple myeloma. The organization is driven to improve the lives of those affected by myeloma by empowering the community through awareness, education and advocacy programs, and supporting clinical research to find the cure. Since it was founded in 2005, Myeloma Canada has been making myeloma matter.