

Friday, February 14, 2025

Marit Stiles, MPP for Davenport

Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party
Queen's Park, Room 381, Main Legislative Building
Toronto, ON
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Mission:
Make
Myeloma
Matter


Subject: If elected, how can you help?

Dear MPP Stiles,


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, by ensuring the implementation of, and building upon Ontario's latest Cancer Plan.** We are pleased that the Ontario Cancer Plan 6 included 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 would 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.


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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. Though there are more Ontarians with myeloma, they are *living longer*, largely due to incredible advancements in cancer research happening in our province today. **Many of the country's most promising studies are being conducted right here in Ontario**, investigating not only the treatment of myeloma and other cancers, **but also ways to improve quality of life for Ontario patients, who have to cope every day with the logistical, emotional and financial burdens of cancer.**


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


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- 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.

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 delivery, development, and commercialization of cutting-edge cancer care to people all across the province.

In the event you are elected Premier of Ontario, we hope your government will uphold the promises made in Cancer Plan 6, and we respectfully ask you to go the extra mile by quickly and effectively integrating Canadian-made innovations to our healthcare system which can help improve quality of life for Ontarians affected by cancer.

Your colleagues, MPP France G linas and MPP Peggy Sattler met with us and our Ontario multiple myeloma community members at the end of Blood Cancer Awareness Month, **on October 17, 2023**. MPPs G linas and Sattler offered them a unique opportunity to share the realities of myeloma patients living with this incurable cancer, and for that, we thank you. Unfortunately, **two of the three patients MPP G linas met with, have since passed away due to lack of options to treat their myeloma.** Their stories are a painful reminder 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 as Premier of Ontario, you will be a leader in making cancer care a priority.

This ambitious plan has the power to change the futures of countless Ontarians touched by cancer, who may just today be learning their lives are changed forever. This is why it is so important that you and your government take action, ensuring the timely, successful and sustainable implementation of Ontario'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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MPP France G linas (Nickel Belt, New Democratic Party)
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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.