

Government Relations: Ontario Issues

Government Relations and Social Action
Training Workshop - April 26, 2008

John Clifford, Chair, OSAC

Kim Steele, Senior Coordinator, Government Relations



Ontario Government Relations

- **Ontario Board of Directors**
 - Ontario Government Relations and Community Social Action Committee (OSAC)
- **Chapters**
 - Social Action Directors
 - Social Action Committees
- **Staff support**
 - Deanna Groetzinger
 - Kim Steele

Priority Issues 2008/09

- Local Health Integration Networks
- Home care/age-appropriate care
- Accessibility Standards development
- Access to treatment (particularly Neuromodulation and medication)
- Support for endMS Campaign

Local Health Integration Networks

- Established in 2006 by Government of Ontario
- Oversee 2/3 (\$40 billion) of ON health care budget
- Regional-based planning, integrating, and funding of health services such as:
 - Long-term care homes
 - Community Care Access Centres
 - Hospitals
 - Community support services (e.g. home care)
 - Community Health Centres

Government Relations: LHINS

- Community outreach = awareness is growing
- Correspondence and engagement with LHIN leaders
- LHIN survey
- Development of chapter engagement strategies
- Coalition work

Home Care & Age-Appropriate Care

- 20% of residents in Ontario hospital-based continuing care facilities under 65
- 40% of residents in complex continuing care are under 65
- In 2000, 225 people with MS under 65 lived in long-term care homes

Government Relations: Home Care & Age-Appropriate Care

- Release & distribution of “Finding My Place”
 - MS Society community
 - Community partners & other health charities
 - Key government officials
- Aging at Home Strategy
- Meetings & correspondence with government officials and LHIN leaders
- Pre-budget submission
- Collaboration with other health charities
- Day at Queen’s Park

Accessibility Standards Development

- Introduction of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) in 2005
- Accessibility Standards development in:
 - Customer Service
 - Transportation
 - Information and Communications
 - Built Environment
 - Employment
- Customer Service Standard became law on Jan 1, 2008

Government Relations: Accessibility Standards Development

- Standards Development Committees – increase in representatives from disability community to 50% of committee membership
- Representatives from MS Society sit on:
 - Built Environment Committee (2 representatives)
 - Transportation Committee (1 representative)
- MS Society has been active in public consultations and feedback sessions

Access to Treatment

- Neuromodulation
- Drug Therapies
 - Tysabri
 - Lyrica
 - Betaseron

Government Relations: Access to Treatment

- Neuromodulation
 - Coalition
 - Correspondence with MOHLTC
 - Pre-budget Submission
 - Expert Report
- Drug Therapies
 - Committee to Evaluate Drugs (Tysabri)
 - NoCc/Section 16 (Lyrica)
 - (Betaseron)

Support for endMS Campaign

endMS.ca

Government Relations: endMS Campaign

- Development of government relations strategy
- Opportunities for volunteer involvement
- Developing volunteer capacity

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Day at Queen's Park
- Chapter/unit collaboration on LHIN engagement
- endMS government relations strategy
- Constituency events/opportunities

Questions?

Thank you!

