

Making a Difference Today

John Clifford, Chair, OSAC

April 28, 2007



Ontario Government Relations

- Ontario Division
 - Board of Directors
 - Government Relations and Community Social Action Committee (OSAC)
- Chapters
 - Social Action Committees
 - Government relations & social action volunteers
- Staff support
 - Deanna Groetzinger at Ontario Division
 - Chapter staff

Priority Issues 2006-07

- Home care/age-appropriate long-term care
- Drug program changes
- Human rights system changes
- First ever MPP reception at Queens Park
- Chapter government relations workshop

Home care/ age-appropriate long-term care

- *Finding My Place*
 - Produced paper
 - Developed usage guide for chapters
- Presented to Ontario Government's Social Policy Committee about MS Society recommendations re age-appropriate long-term care
- Bill 140: Legislation to change long-care in Ontario
 - Input to government before and during the development of Bill
 - Does not mention age-appropriate long-term care but looking for opportunities for input

Drug program changes

- Bill 102: Ontario government initiated major reform of provincial drug programs
 - We advanced drug access issues for people with MS – Goal: MS drugs on full formulary
 - Continual input throughout consultation and after
 - MS Society staff on task force to develop selection and training criteria for patient members of new Committee to Evaluate Drugs
- Continue to push for easier access for MS drugs – both disease modifying therapies and for symptom treatment

Human rights system changes

- Bill 107: Ontario government initiated changes to human rights legislation
 - Key change is to how HR complaints are brought forward
 - Concern because of effect on enforcement of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act
 - Much input -- meetings with Attorney General staff; presentation at two legislative committee hearings
 - Final legislation reflected many MS Society recommendations

First ever MPP reception

- April 2006, first ever reception for MPPs at Ontario legislature
 - Lead-in to MS Awareness Month
 - Unofficial launch of Finding My Place
- Attracted several key ministers including Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Attorney General
- Brought MS Society issues directly to MPPs and staff

Making a Difference Today

- First ever training workshop on government relations for chapter volunteers, April 28-29
- Basic government relations training
- Sharing of success and challenges

Many thanks to Pfizer Canada and Bayer Healthcare for their generous support.



**We can and will make
a difference today**