

BIOGRAPHY



Raj Saini

Name: Raj Saini

Party: Liberal

Riding: Kitchener Centre

Language: English/French



Connection to MS:

- Raj is a former pharmacist and had many patients with MS, he is also familiar with the DMTs
- Met with Abidah Shamji and Angelica Asis on May 2, 2016 for the Day on the Hill Campaign
- Attended the 2016 Day on the Hill Reception
- Met with David Arbuthnot and Lisa McCoy on May 1, 2017 for the Day on the Hill Campaign
- Attended the 2017 Day on the Hill Reception

Committees:

- Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development
- Member, Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics
- Member, Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development
- Member, Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

Bio:

- Raj Saini has not sponsored any bills in the current session
- Raj Saini has sponsored Private Members' Motions:
 - M-132 Federally funded health research
- Raj Saini has owned and operated the award-winning Greenbrook Pharmacy for nearly 20 years
- He is a proud Rotarian of many years, a board member of the Canadian International Council, Waterloo Region branch and a long-time champion of Liberal values
- He is passionate about improving the local economy, creating jobs and promoting the health and well-being of Kitchener Centre's residents
- Raj earned his Bachelors of Science in Chemistry from the University of Toronto, and a Bachelors of Science in Pharmacy from Boston's Northeastern University
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Parliamentary Associations and Interparliamentary Groups:

- Executive Member, Canada-Germany Interparliamentary Group
- Member, Canada-Israel Interparliamentary Group
- Member, Canada-Italy Interparliamentary Group

About Raj Saini's Private Members' Motion:

Last year, Member of Parliament Raj Saini (Liberal, Kitchener Centre, Ontario) put forward the following motion (M-132):

“That the Standing Committee on Health be instructed to undertake a study on ways of increasing benefits to the public resulting from federally funded health research, with the goals of lowering drugs costs and increasing access to medicines, both in Canada and globally; and that the Committee report its findings and recommendations to the House no later than one year from the time this motion is adopted.”

For context, the intention of this motion is NOT to add onto the existing study on Pharmacare or a National Pharmacare Strategy. This is intended to focus specifically on how Canadian health research is done, how it is funded, what its priorities are and concerns with the system as it currently works. This study has the potential to dramatically alter the way the government of Canada does health research going forward. In fall 2017, HCCC provided some of the Coalition's background documents (i.e. HCCC's submission to Canada's Fundamental Science Review and Access to Medicines position statement) to M.P. Saini's office to provide examples of health charities' investments in research and the impacts of the research on patients' lives and access to medicines.

Why is this important to HCCC members:

- The outlined motion has the potential to impact both of HCCC's priorities: access to medicines and investment in research.
- This is an opportunity for health charities to be recognized further as partners in the research ecosystem.

M.P. Saini's office reached out to HCCC (and likely to some HCCC member organizations individually) that following the unanimous approval of Motion-132 in the House of Commons, that HESA is meeting next week to determine the scope of the study. In Saini's office's correspondence, they asked that individuals submit their name as a witness, to demonstrate the broad interest in the topic and enhance HESA's discussions on the study **by noon Monday January 29th 2018**.

For Action:

If your organization is interested in submitting your name as a witness in this study, please let Helena (hsonea@healthcharities.ca) know ASAP. I can provide further information and track responses from the Coalition which will help inform future engagement on this study. If your organization is not chosen as a witness, there is still an opportunity to submit a brief for HESA's consideration as part of the study. **NOTE: HCCC will be submitting to appear as a witness before HESA to inform this study. If selected, a member(s) of the Board will attend with Connie.**

**MS Society submitted an expression of interest in February 2018 directly to the clerk of the Standing Committee on Health. (See below)

Dear Ms. Marie-Hélène Sauvé,

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On behalf of Pamela Valentine, President and Chief Executive Officer, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society of Canada we would like to request to appear before the Standing Committee on Health to provide information on the study being undertaken on ways of increasing benefits to the public resulting from federally funded health research, with the goals of lowering drugs costs and increasing access to medicines, both in Canada and globally. Please see the following contact information below:

Name of the witness: Pamela Valentine

Full title: President and Chief Executive Officer

Name of organization: Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada

Contact information: pamela.valentine@mssociety.ca | 416-967-3000

Rationale to appear: *The mission of the MS Society of Canada is “to be a leader in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life.” The MS Society provides programs and services including information, support, education, wellness and other resources for people with MS and their families. We believe a future free of MS is achievable. We have contributed over \$160 million towards MS research since 1948. Our research investment has enabled Canada to create a pipeline of exceptional MS researchers and become a leading contributor to discovery in the field of MS. Along with our members, volunteers and staff, we work to ensure Canadians living with MS and their families have the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of life by advocating for improvements in government legislation and policies, private industry practices and/or public attitudes.*

Thank you for your consideration of our request to appear. Feel free to reach out with any questions or if you require further information.

*Sincerely,
Julie KelIndorfer*