

Funding Cuts to the Centre for Movement Disorders, Markham, Ontario

Dr. Guttman, Director of the Centre for Movement Disorders (CFMD) in Markham, Ontario, recently announced the CFMD will be closing effective August 31st, 2013, as a result of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) decision to cut support for the multi-disciplinary team that provides on-going services to this clinic. The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada (DMRF Canada) was extremely disappointed and disheartened by this decision, as 2500 Ontarians living with movement disorders and their families will no longer have access to the gold-standard multidisciplinary care that the CFMD has provided for the past 11 years.

DMRF Canada has been actively working with Dr. Guttman, in conjunction with our movement disorder partners, Parkinson Society of Canada and Huntington Society of Canada, to negotiate on-going funding for the clinic with the MOHLTC. When the funding cuts were confirmed in late April 2013, we collectively brought this issue to the attention of Premier Wynne, and are still in discussions with Premier's office at this time.

What can you do to help?

We welcome feedback from our dystonia community this on this issue, for it is your collective voices that will have the greatest impact on making changes within this province. Dystonia Medical Research Foundation Canada, Parkinson Society Ontario, Parkinson Society Canada, Huntington Society of Canada are currently in the process of developing a strategy and messaging to inform the Government of Ontario of the critical implications such decisions have on all people affected, and the need to support both the multi-disciplinary model of care and a Movement Disorder Strategy in this province.

We are currently in the process of developing a public action plan which will be made available on or before May 31, 2013, through our websites and social media outlets.

This plan will serve as a basis for consistent messaging between the movement disorder communities when speaking to MPPs and policy decision-makers, so that our collective voice will have strong impact and influence to encourage change. We appreciate your patience and will have further updates on next steps shortly.



DYSTONIA MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION CANADA
serving all dystonia-affected persons

FONDATION DE RECHERCHE MÉDICALE SUR LA DYSTONIE CANADA
désservant toutes personnes atteintes de dystonie