

June 3, 2010

Mr. Dean Allison, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
FAX: 613-992-2727; 905-563-7500

Dear Dean,

On behalf of the Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge (NASK) group, thank you for your commitment to raising awareness of anaphylaxis with your colleagues on Parliament Hill. We appreciate your initiative in tabling a motion calling on government to take measures to assist those individuals and families coping with life-threatening allergies.

As you are aware, anaphylaxis affects hundreds of thousands of families in Canada. In Niagara, our membership is witness to increasing numbers of children who are diagnosed with severe allergies. Anaphylaxis has no cure and avoidance is the only preventative measure. Because of this stark reality NASK, through you, asks the federal government to take steps to help reduce the risk of unnecessary and preventable anaphylactic attacks – medical emergencies. A coordinated, thoughtful set of government initiatives will help to raise public understanding of anaphylaxis, and provide greater safety to affected Canadian children, youth, adults and their families.

As we have discussed, NASK families do not seek 100% guarantees for safe environments from our government. We live knowing and accepting there is a great deal of personal responsibility required to live safely with anaphylaxis. However, we contend that governments at all levels can and should provide leadership on this issue. The federal government can raise greater public understanding, promote responsible safety measures, educate people on the signs of a reaction and how to help a person in need - similar to CPR education, the use of defibrillators, and the public information campaigns for diabetes and stroke awareness. This coordinated government approach will lead to reducing risk and to safer environments for individuals and families living with life-threatening allergies. Our governments have successfully tackled a wide range of health concerns that has made Canada a safer, healthier, happier place to live. We believe that anaphylaxis deserves the same attention.

Again, Dean, heart-felt thank you for taking the initiative of tabling a motion on this most important issue. NASK families look forward to working with you to begin the dialogue with your MP colleagues (and with Canadians) on how our Canadian society will rethink the best way to assist with the safety of children dealing with severe, life-threatening allergies.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Paskey  
President