

Anaphylaxis Motion 546 gains momentum on Parliament Hill

MPs Allison, Allen and Dykstra work with MPs and families across Canada to raise awareness of life threatening allergies

November 8, 2010 – Members of Parliament will be meeting in Ottawa in the coming weeks to discuss how the federal government can better respond to the growing numbers of Canadians who must cope with anaphylaxis – a medical condition describing people with severe, life-threatening allergies.

Dean Allison, Niagara West - Glanbrook MP, will be hosting a nonpartisan meeting of like-minded MPs from across Canada. These MPs have responded to a grassroots appeal by hundreds of Canadian families. Mr. Allison explains, “We want to look at how we can help coordinate a thoughtful government response to anaphylaxis to raise public understanding of life threatening allergies and to provide greater safety for a growing number of Canadian children, youth, adults and their families. Recent medical research reveals 1 in 13 Canadians suffer from life-threatening allergies and, as a society, we must begin to find new ways to reduce the risks of unnecessary and preventable anaphylactic incidents.”

Mr. Allison is working along side of other Niagara MPs who have been approached by the local allergies support group, Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge (NASK). Welland MP Malcolm Allen says, “I have met with many families throughout Niagara who have explained just how challenging it is for them. Because there is no cure for anaphylaxis and because of the potential severity of a reaction, the only preventive measure for people dealing with severe allergies is strict avoidance. So, I am pleased to add my voice to a cause that will help make life a little easier for them.”

St. Catharines MP Rick Dykstra adds, “We are confident that we can make a difference for people with severe allergies, similar to those coordinated government responses to combat the ill effects of smoking, or teaching about defibrillator to save the lives of people suffering a heart attack.”

The Niagara MPs are committed to assisting national and community-based support groups to raise awareness for current policy issues impacting Canadians with anaphylaxis. They will help to push for a new coordinating agent within the federal government that will pull together all the various allergy related policies and programs. The MPs are working with a network of Canadian families – including many in the Niagara Region – to secure meetings with the key Ministers and to prompt a Parliamentary debate on the subject.

Chris George, a NASK member and father of a 7-year old son dealing with anaphylaxis, recently met with Mr. Allison and is encouraged by the MPs’ efforts. “I believe we might just take the awareness of anaphylaxis on Parliament Hill and in the decision-making circles of Ottawa to new heights. Our focus is to prompt a coordinated government approach that will ultimately lead to safer environments for those living with life-threatening allergies. Canadians have been very successful in tackling health concerns from breast cancer to heart and stroke to bouts of influenza and this makes Canada a safer, healthier, happier place to live for ordinary people and families. It’s encouraging to know MPs believe that anaphylaxis deserves the same attention.”

MP Dean Allison currently has Motion 546 before Parliament that reads: *That in the opinion of the House, anaphylaxis is a serious concern for an increasing number of Canadians and the government should take the appropriate measures necessary to ensure these Canadians are able to maintain a high quality of life.*

For more information, visit www.nask.ca and call:

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