

# **Anaphylaxis issues to be the focus of MPs meeting**

## ***Niagara MPs host and Niagara families present at Parliament Hill information session***

November 8, 2010 – Members of Parliament will meet with a group of Niagara residents who will lead a presentation on the current challenges facing families living with anaphylaxis – a medical condition describing people with severe, life threatening allergies. The early December meeting is a result of a focused effort through the last six months to communicate with MPs about the realities faced by families, young adults and children who must cope with severe allergies.

Niagara Anaphylaxis Support and Knowledge (NASK) has been working with community support groups across Canada to gain support for Niagara West - Glanbrook MP Dean Allison's motion in the House of Commons: *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.* Mr. Allison is hosting the lunch meeting of his colleagues to speak to the motion and discuss how MPs may help.

Cindy Paskey, NASK President says, "Our goal is to gain greater understanding among our MPs and Ottawa officials who make important decisions that affect the health and quality of life people living with anaphylaxis experience. With the help of all of our Niagara MPs, we are excited to be making progress. We continue to reach out across Canada, to work with affected families and their MPs. Mr. Allison's motion and the upcoming meeting allow us to raise and discuss with MPs important issues that directly affect our families and friends."

Cindy Paskey welcomes the trip to Parliament Hill. "We look forward to going to Ottawa where we will have open dialogue with an interested and concerned audience of MPs. We will relate the 24/7 reality faced by parents who must rely on others to help keep their children safe. We will call for a coordinated government plan to respond to the issues that challenge a growing number of Canadian children and youth diagnosed with anaphylaxis. We also intend to discuss the inadequacies of the recent airline ruling about serving peanuts on flights and why allergen specific food labelling is so critically important to our families."

"MPs will gain a deeper understanding of the issues and challenges faced by Canadians with life-threatening allergies in their day-to-day lives," adds Ms. Paskey.

NASK has worked with other Canadian anaphylaxis groups to connect with MPs through the summer. Families continue to write and meet with MPs to relate their personal stories. Chris George, father of a child with anaphylaxis and member of NASK, comments on this national initiative, "We're encouraged that our collective efforts are raising awareness to new heights. There is a growing recognition that our country will need a coordinated, thoughtful set of government initiatives as more and more Canadians cope with anaphylaxis. It is essential that we raise the public understanding of this health condition and take the steps to provide greater safety to children and citizens. MPs and government officials will have to take action on the serious health and safety concerns that are becoming more prevalent in our society."

**For more information, visit [www.nask.ca](http://www.nask.ca) and call:**

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