

February 21, 2022

The Honourable Member name

Member of Provincial Parliament for riding name

Re: Support for Medical Coverage Lymphedema

As a constituent in your riding, congratulations on your election to the Ontario Legislature. My name is … and I am a person living with lymphedema. (\*or therapist, caregiver… dealing with..)

**March 6 is World Lymphedema Day.** Lymphedema is a progressive inflammatory condition, characterized by chronic swelling of the lymphatic system that can occur in any area of the body. Lymphedema has no cure, but can be managed with therapy and compression. Lymphedema consequences range from psycho-social impact, to limited mobility, tissue infection/degeneration requiring expensive treatment and surgery, and, in extreme situations, to death.

A 2016 research from the Canadian Lymphedema Framework (CLF) indicates that there were approximately 1 million Canadians suffering from lymphedema at the time, which translates to approximately 400,000 Ontarians. Since the main causes for lymphedema onset are morbid obesity and cancer (57% and 31% of cases, respectively), the number of patients is higher now.

The lymphedema community of Ontario is grateful for the funding provided for compression garments through the Assistive Devices Program.

The community is, however, looking forward to some desperately needed changes to legislation, in order to provide coverage for patient education and management of lymphedema, both critical in preventing severe consequences and avoiding later, much higher treatment costs. For **World Lymphedema Day, March 6, 2022**, the Lymphedema Association of Ontario (LAO) is asking for your support in creating and passing a bill for the following:

1. Addition of night compression garments and compression bandaging materials, when recommended by therapists, to the ADP program
2. OHIP compensation of three therapy sessions, at the time lymphedema is diagnosed, in order to educate the patient in daily self-massage, skin care, exercising and nutrition

For more information, please visit[www.lymphontario.ca](http://www.lymphontario.ca). I would also welcome the opportunity to further discuss with you the challenges faced by people living with lymphedema.

Sincerely,

Signature

Phone #