

## SCI Alliance Meeting: November 2018

### This report includes information on:

- Access to Mobility Devices in Ontario
- Physician Engagement for people with SCI
- Access to Intermittent Catheters
- Networks of Networks in Ontario (next Alliance Meeting January 25)
- Pathways of Care Proposal – Ontario Government
- Federal Accessibility Alliance (FALA)

### Access to Mobility Devices in Ontario

On October 31, Spinal Cord Injury Ontario presented our findings from the Independent Review on Access to Mobility Devices in Ontario to the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists (OSOT). This presentation explored the ADP funding model and discussed challenges and recommendations facing the current mobility devices sector in Ontario. We look forward to collaborating with OSOT, inviting them to be an Ontario SCI Alliance member, and working through the best methods of addressing and resolving barriers that impact the quality of life for our communities.

➤ [View OSOT Presentation](#)

On November 14, we were invited by the PC Caucus Services Department to review Ontario's Mobility Devices Sector and discuss potential reforms to the Ontario Assistive Devices Program. Caucus Services agreed to establish a "Special Working Group" comprised of disability organizations across the province including key community organizations (SCIO, CHS, MOD, and CNIB) to focus on three key issues:

1. [Review Ontario's funding model for mobility devices](#)
2. [Review the process of accessing Assistive Devices Programs in Ontario](#)
3. [Review Global Mobility Device options](#)

The Working Group is in the process of designing a Terms of Reference that will be presented to the Ministry of Health during its next meeting. The Honourable Christine Elliot, Minister of Health and

Long-Term Care, will attend our next meeting. This working group will operate with the PC Government over the next few months to finalize recommendations. We will keep you posted as updates become available.

### **Intermittent Catheters (IC)**

In order to gain wider reach across the province, amplify our community's voice and better communicate with the government on this important need, we have partnered with the March of Dimes (MOD) to organize our Queen's Park Day on access to vital medical supplies for people with disabilities. For more information about our Queen's Park Day, visit [sciontario.org/queenspark](http://sciontario.org/queenspark)

We are also assembling a professional team to design a business plan to make a case for access to IC funding in Ontario for February 2019. If you would like to participate in the development of the business case for better access to intermittent catheters in Ontario, please contact us at [advocacy@sciontario.ca](mailto:advocacy@sciontario.ca). Our goal is to submit our business case to the Ontario Government Budget Process.

### **Networks of Networks in Ontario – A Joint Ontario SCI Alliance “Special” Meeting**

A joint meeting between the Ontario Implementation Network and the Ontario SCI Alliance has been scheduled for January 25 in Toronto. All dedicated SCI Rehab Centres have been invited, including our colleagues in Windsor and Thunder Bay. We will be working with these Rehab Centres across the province to look at how we can implement and measure best practices together. Our community spoke loudly on the inequities of rehab services in this province. We are committed to working with key stakeholders in Ontario to address this challenge. Materials will be shared with Alliance members as they are developed.

### **Pathways of Care Proposal**

We have a scheduled meeting with the Ministry of Health in hopes to finalize the \$6 Million “Pathways of Care” proposal with the Ontario Government on November 30. We may be reaching out to you for letters of support in the coming days if this line item in the 2018 Ontario Budget is not resolved quickly. Stay tuned for more information in our next update.

- [\*\*Neurotrauma Care Pathway Proposal\*\*](#)

## **Federal Accessibility Legislation Alliance (FALA)**

As an active member of FALA, we recently submitted two independent letters of support to HUMA (Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities) endorsing FALA's recommendations on Bill C-81 (The Accessible Canada Act). As of November 27, Bill C-81 passed Third Reading, and now needs to go to the Senate for final approval. We continue to urge the Senate to support FALA's recommendations.

[View Minister Qualtrough Letter](#)

[View HUMA Letter](#)

[View FALA's recommendations on Bill C-81](#)

## **Next Steps**

We will write again with more updates on all of our initiatives and advocacy priorities as they become available. For more details, see our 3-year SCI Community Strategic Plan – Amplifying our Community's Voice. Until then, thank you for your interest and involvement.