

SCI Alliance Meeting: February 2019

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Premier's Council 1st Interim Report: Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine

On January 31, the Premier's Council released its first Interim report on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine co-authored by Dr Reuben Devlin. The report identified three key findings:

- Patients in Ontario find it difficult to navigate the current health care system and experience long wait times which negatively impacts their health and the well-being of the family, providers and caregivers
- The current system is facing immense capacity pressures and does not have the appropriate mix of services, beds or digital tools to be ready for the expected increase in complex care needs
- There is an immediate need for better and effective co-ordination at the system level and at the point-of-care to make the system more efficient and achieve better value for taxpayer money

The Premier Council will now begin to develop advice for the government on how to fix the problem of hallway health care and will provide recommendations exploring opportunities for improvement in digital health care, integrated health care delivery and finding efficiencies in the system to improve health outcomes for Ontarians.

> [View Premier's Council Report](#)

SCIO Pre-Budget Submission

Leveraging the work of Ontario SCI Alliance Members, SCIO submitted three written submissions in preparation for the 2019 Ontario budget consultations. The first submission detailed our recommendations on how to end hallway medicine through the development of neurotrauma care pathways, similar to the best practice pathways implemented in Cancer Care Ontario and the Ontario Stroke Network.

The second submission calls for the need for stronger and better coordinated home and community care supports across the province and proposes a number of recommendations on how to create an effective home and community care strategy.

We also submitted an independent submission to the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs at their request for the need to incorporate universal design principles for all newly built housing supply in Ontario and ensuring access and inclusion for all. For more information, please see the complete submission below:

- > [View Submission one](#): Improving Hallway Medicine Through Better Home and Community Care Supports in Ontario
- > [View Submission two](#): Ending Hallway Medicine through Neurotrauma Pathways
- > [View Submission three](#): Building an Affordable and Accessible Ontario for All

SCI Implementation, Evaluation and Quality Care Consortium (SCI IEQCC)

On January 25, SCI HIGH, SCI KMN and the Ontario SCI Alliance joined forces to host our very first SCI implementation, Evaluation and Quality Care Consortium (SCI IEQCC) meeting in collaboration with our SCI health care partners across Ontario. The event brought together policy makers, researchers, clinicians, service providers, people living with SCI, and knowledge mobilization experts in the field of Spinal Cord Injury rehabilitation. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce best practice quality indicators and implementation science collectively with all the SCI dedicated rehabilitation centres in Ontario and work towards establishing benchmarks in delivering optimal and equitable health care services for all people with SCI, regardless of where you live in Ontario. The consortium was hugely successful and very well attended. For more details, please see the presentation materials from the event:

[Opening Remarks](#)

[Details](#)

[SCI-High Domains Overview](#)

[SCI-Hight Project Overview](#)

To support this work, the Rick Hansen Institute and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation pledged \$1.3 million in resources over the next two years.

HQO Update

On Feb 20, HQO released its much anticipated report with recommendations on funding intermittent catheters. To our dismay the recommendations only propose public funding for “uncoated catheters”. For more details [please view report](#). While we are not pleased with the results, we welcome HQO’s call to provide public funding for everyone who requires catheters and will continue to make our case for requesting fully funded catheters based on need, choice, and medical opinion as we prepare for Ontario’s Budget Submission and our upcoming Queen’s Park day on March 18.

Bill C-81 and FALA Recommendations

Last week, the Federal Accessibility Legislation Alliance (FALA) presented 11 recommendations on Bill C-81 – an act to ensure a barrier free Canada, to ten Senators, Minister Qualtrough and the Accessibility Secretariat. [Please view the recommendations here](#).

Bill C-81 received Second Reading in the Senate on Wednesday and is in Second Reading debate with expectations to go to the Social Affairs, Science and Technology Committee in the coming months – if all goes smoothly. There is also news from the Accessibility Secretariat team about development of a Canadian Accessibility Standards Development Organization (CASDO) as early as this summer. Please stay tuned. We are monitoring the situation very closely and will write about more updates as they become available soon.

2019 Ontario Budget

The Government of Ontario will be wrapping up its pre-budget consultations this week and is expected to table its first provincial budget in April. Improving funding and access to health care has been identified as a key priority for the budget and we have been actively engaging the government to provide our feedback and ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind. We are following the situation closely and will provide more updates in the coming months ahead.

For more information on the Ontario Government's Healthcare Plan, view the webcast here <https://vcnetwork.ca/MOHLTCstakeholderwebcast/>.

Save the Date for SCI Alliance Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our next SCI Alliance meeting scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2019. We will provide more details in our next update!