



CareNow Ontario is an organization representing and supporting the medical conditions of **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)**, **Fibromyalgia (FM)** and **Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (ES/MCS)**

## CareNow Ontario – NEWS ALERT

May, 2023

**YOU ARE INVITED TO CareNow Ontario's Zoom Meeting  
on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

**TO MARK May 12<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAY For Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity**

Dear Members and Friends of CareNow Ontario:

CareNow Ontario (formerly The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario (MEAO)) is inviting you to its awareness day Zoom Meeting on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2 p.m. to mark May 12<sup>th</sup> International Awareness Day for **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia and Environmental Sensitivities/Multiple Chemical Sensitivity.**

### **INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION FOR THE ZOOM MEETING**

Click on the Zoom link and register in advance for this Zoom meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIVdeuorDksGNZRBouhmcbDoJ3xQjC3k-Uc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. There will also be a phone number given for those who do not have internet service.

**Time of the Zoom Meeting: 1 to 2 p.m. on May 12<sup>th</sup>**, and we suggest you join 5 or 10 minutes before to make sure you can connect without problems. All participants will be kept on mute and are asked to keep on mute for the entire meeting except during Q and A time for which instructions will be given at that time.

### **Marking May 12 International Awareness Day and Updates from CareNow Ontario.**

In lieu of going in person to Queen's Park Awareness, the board of directors of CareNow Ontario will be hosting a media conference at Queen's Park on May 10th

[carenowontario.org](http://carenowontario.org)

**CareNow ONTARIO** [info@carenowontario.org](mailto:info@carenowontario.org)

where we will be presenting three Calls to Action. France Gelin, NDP Health Critic is our sponsor.

2023 marks ten years since CareNow Ontario (formerly MEAO) together with Alliance for Healthier Communities (formerly AOHC) submitted a business case to the Minister of Health for an Ontario Centre of Excellence for Environmental Health – a project funded by the Ministry of Health. Ten years later, after another Minister established a Task Force on Environmental Health and another Minister commissioned an Action Plan – we have seen no movement – no commitment – no funding.

Despite the growing number of people with these conditions and despite the leading research and practices around the world, the Government of Ontario has no care system, no clinical pathways and no systematic research.

The Government has the blueprint for action. It just needs to implement and fund. For further information on the vision and the studies and reports completed in the last ten years, please see the backgrounder that is attached to the email sending this newsflash.

At this media press conference, we will be calling for three Calls to Action:

1. To implement and fund the recommendations in the Business case for an Ontario Centre of Excellence developed in 2013 and validated by the Minister's Task force on Environmental Health in 2018.
2. To immediately release **Laying the Groundwork**, an action plan to implement the recommendations in the Business case and the Task Force on Environmental Health final report, developed by Dr Schwartz, Vice President Public Health Ontario in 2021.
3. Immediately fund the development of case definitions and clinical guidelines to develop best practices and clinical pathways by expert physicians; fund development of clinical curriculum and require Ontario universities to incorporate this along with research projects into medical schools and public health schools.

Come to our zoom meeting to hear how the media conference went and the other legislative activities that took place during the week.

We will also be asking all our friends and members to join us in this Call to Action by meeting with your MPPs to ask them to support these three Calls to Action. You can leave with your MPP with a copy of the backgrounder.

Dr. Tabassum, Environmental Health Clinic will also attend the zoom meeting and will highlight a few updates from over the last year within the field of environmentally linked complex chronic conditions, including system level changes that impacted access to virtual care services.

Finally, we will be celebrating May 12<sup>th</sup> International Awareness Day by launching our new CareNow Ontario website [www.carenowontario.org](http://www.carenowontario.org). Come to the meeting so you can get a first look.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:**

Contact your local MPP and tell them again about how the medical conditions of ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS have impacted you and your family and how there is no system of care for people with these conditions.

- Leave your MPP the backgrounder and ask them to make a direct request to the Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, or request that the health critic of your party make the request of Minister Jones to take action now
- Report back to CareNow Ontario on the outcome of this communication via email at: [info@carenowontario.org](mailto:info@carenowontario.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at:  
[info@carenowontario.org](mailto:info@carenowontario.org)

Looking forward to seeing you on zoom on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00.

*Denise Magi  
President and Chair  
CareNow Ontario  
(formerly The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario (MEAO)  
On behalf of the Board of Directors of CareNow Ontario*