



News Release

April 18, 2013

Bringing Meningitis Awareness to Queen's Park *Supporters and volunteers meet MPPs to mark World Meningitis Day*

Meningitis Relief Canada will be at Queen's Park on April 24th to mark World Meningitis Day and raise awareness of this potentially deadly—and preventable—disease.

In honour of World Meningitis Day, NDP MPP Jagmeet Singh (Bramalea—Gore—Malton) will introduce the *Meningitis Awareness Day Act* in the Ontario Legislature. If passed, the bill would recognize April 24th of every year as World Meningitis Day in this province.

Meningococcal meningitis is an inflammation of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. It appears suddenly and can be fatal within 24-48 hours. Some individuals will die of the disease, and many who don't will face long-term disability, such as neurological damage, hearing loss, or limb amputation.

Meningitis Relief Canada is a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families afflicted by meningitis by providing means to heal and rebuild. Its mission is to educate and raise awareness among the public and health care professionals to prevent death and disability from meningitis, and to support affected Canadians and their families.

QUOTES

“Meningitis strikes without warning, but knowing what to do can mean the difference between life and death. We are bringing our message to Queen's Park to educate our elected officials and to raise awareness. No Ontario family should have to lose a loved one to this deadly disease.”

—*Furakh Mir, Chair and President, Meningitis Relief Canada*

“Too many families have been devastated by meningitis infection. I am introducing the *Meningitis Awareness Act* so that more Ontario families get the information and support that they need.”

—*Jagmeet Singh, MPP Bramalea-Gore-Malton*

QUICK FACTS

- Approximately 1,000 Canadians will contract meningitis this year, mostly children and teenagers.
- Meningitis can kill within hours, and is often mistaken for the flu in its early stages.
- Many Canadians are unaware that meningitis can be prevented through vaccination.

LEARN MORE

- Read about the work of Meningitis Relief Canada at <http://meningitisrelief.com/>

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