

## ONTARIANS TO BENEFIT FROM COMPREHENSIVE DIABETES STRATEGY

*McGuinty Government Invests \$741 Million Over Four Years to Prevent, Manage and Treat Diabetes*

NEWS

July 22, 2008

An online registry to manage diabetes, improved access to insulin pumps and dialysis services and additional supports help form a new, \$741 million diabetes strategy aimed at improving the lives of 900,000 people.

Key elements of the strategy that will help Ontarians prevent, manage and treat diabetes include:

- Educational campaigns to raise awareness of diabetes risk factors in high risk populations, such as the Aboriginal and South Asian communities.
- Creating an online registry which will help people with diabetes and their health care providers actively co-manage their disease.
- Expanding and improving services and supports for people with diabetes.
- Improving access to insulin pumps and supplies for type 1 diabetes patients by funding these services for people over the age of 18.
- Expanding chronic kidney disease services, including greater access to dialysis services.
- Implementing a strategy to expand access to bariatric surgery.

The diabetes strategy builds on internationally accepted best practices and the recommendations of the Diabetes Management Expert Panel. The Panel, was established by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in 2006, to provide advice on improving diabetes care in Ontario.

The electronic diabetes registry and related provider/patient web portals will be online in Spring, 2009. This represents the first step towards establishing safe and secure electronic health records for all Ontarians by 2015.

### QUOTES

“Our plan will help Ontarians living with diabetes get better access to the care they need, when and where they need it,” said David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “By improving the way we prevent, treat and manage diabetes, thousands of Ontarians will benefit from a better quality of life. The diabetes registry will change the way this disease is managed, ultimately saving more lives and easing hospital wait times.”

“We will provide better access to information, programs and services to prevent people from getting diabetes in the first place,” said Margaret Best, Minister of Health Promotion. “There is solid evidence that tells us that many cases of diabetes can be prevented by increasing daily physical activity and making healthy food choices.”

“The Canadian Diabetes Association applauds the Government of Ontario’s continued commitment to investing in a diabetes strategy for Ontarians,” said Cynthia Lees, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Diabetes Association. “This new strategy will

provide an estimated 880,000 Ontarians with diabetes the tools they require to effectively manage their disease.”

“The diabetes strategy will improve the capacity of health care providers and patients to work together towards successful diabetes treatment,” said Dr. Ken Arnold, President, Ontario Medical Association.

“The diabetes strategy takes the most up-to-date research and best practices from around the world and matches them with the needs of diabetes patients in Ontario,” said Dr. Catherine Zahn, chair of the Diabetes Expert Panel. “This will mean better care for diabetes patients across the province.”

## QUICK FACTS

- Currently, 900,000 Ontarians are living with diabetes. This number is expected to grow to 1.2 million by 2010.
- Diabetes puts people at risk for other serious health complications such as heart disease and stroke, kidney and eye disease and limb amputations.
- Diabetes treatment and related conditions and complications currently cost approximately \$5.12 billion per year in Ontario.
- A diabetes patient costs Ontario's health care system over \$3000 in the first year of treatment. If the patient has complications this cost goes up to over \$5000.
- For each patient that requires in-hospital dialysis, the cost to the Ontario health care system over the course of a year is more than \$56,000.

## LEARN MORE

Learn more about Ontario's new diabetes strategy.

Read more about [diabetes in Ontario](#).

Read more on [health promotion](#) and chronic disease prevention.

Get access to reliable advice and information on healthy eating, nutrition and chronic disease prevention through [EatRight Ontario](#).

Learn more about Ontario's e-Health strategy.

Visit the [Canadian Diabetes Association](#).

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