



THE MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO

170 The Donway West, Suite 307, Toronto, ON M3C 2G3

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INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAY

For Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, Fibromyalgia and Multiple
Chemical Sensitivities

THE MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
(MEAO)

Would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for our
awareness day event

In Rooms 228 and 230 of the Legislature Building, Queen's Park

On Tuesday, May 10th, 2016

From 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

RSVP REQUIRED by April 29th, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of MEAO:

MEAO is inviting you to our event for International Awareness Day for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, Fibromyalgia and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities - on Tuesday, May 10th, 2016 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., in Rooms 228 and 230 of the Legislature building. Light refreshments will be served.

Program:

On the agenda this May 10th, will be updates regarding the Ministry of Health Environmental Health Task Force which was announced in December, 2014 and its set-up is progressing. Updates will be given regarding a number of aspects and processes of the project. As always, there will be a number of Ontario MPP's in attendance delivering messages of support.

Background:

At the end of 2013, a business case proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care which sought to

improve the quality of care and support for Ontarians with the illnesses Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, Fibromyalgia and Multiple chemical Sensitivities, as well as other chronic, complex environmentally- linked illnesses.

At the end of 2014, the Minister of Health announced an inter-ministerial Task Force which potentially would determine methods of delivery of health care and services to Ontarians who have ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS and other environmentally linked illnesses.

The reason you have not heard from us frequently is because progress has been slow. The Ministry has not yet formally announced either the membership of the Task Force or the Terms of Reference, but progress is being made. We have been working continually to follow up on all processes.

R.S.V.P. is mandatory for this Event by April 29th !!!!

Send your full name and the names of all of your guests by the preferred method of email to info@meao.ca IF you do not have email, then leave the information on the answering line - 416-222-8820 or 1-877-632-6682 – making sure you spell all names of those attending, clearly and audibly. MEAO must provide the names of all guests and attendees on a list to Queen's Park security in order for them to allow you entry to the Legislature building.

Note: Security at the Legislature building is very tight and strict. If you do not reply by April 29th, there is a chance you will not get on the attendance list so do not leave confirmation until the last minute.

As noted above, replying by email is the preferred method because some information on the phone line is not clear or audible, and because of tight security as Queen's Park, we need the correct spelling of everyone's name. If your name is not on the attendance list, there is no one from MEAO who can go to the security desk to clear you during the program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TO GET POSITIVE ACTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Go to the website for Campaign for Ontario Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health, and click on the *Take Action* link which is:

<http://www.recognitioninclusionandequity.org/take-action/>

Once you get to the above link, follow the instructions and write the suggested letters to the Minister of Health and other government officials.

A big THANK YOU to the many who have written these letters so far and sent copies of your letters to MEAO! This is great! Please continue writing these letters.

Procedures for May 10th, and Queen's Park Rules:

- Arrive by 2:30 p.m. to go through security check, if you decide to go to the gallery of the Legislative Assembly for afternoon MPP Introductions.
- Go to the south basement entrance doors to go through security check where they will have your name on a list and issue you with a pass. Before proceeding to the galleries, visitors must leave coats and bags at the attended coat check.
- By 3 p.m. – be in the Legislative Assembly Gallery if you want to hear the Introduction and member's statement regarding MEAO's May 10th event
- If you **are not** going to the Legislature Gallery for Introductions, please arrive by 3:45 p.m. to go through security check and proceed to Committee Room 228 for 4:30 p.m.
- If you arrive really early prior to 4:30 p.m., you can go to the cafeteria in the basement for some rest time, because committee rooms 228 and 230 are booked for another event before the MEAO event.

- Note – wearing T-shirts with slogans and pictures is prohibited inside the Ontario Legislature building.
- This is a SCENT FREE event. Please refrain from using any scented personal products.
- Light refreshments will be served. We always do our best to avoid the most MCS offensive foods, but because many of you are extremely hypersensitive to a lot of foods, please feel free to bring your own snacks.
- For directions to Queen's Park – see below

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to my attention at the MEAO email address (info@meao.ca).

Show your support, let's see you all on Tuesday, May 10th.

Sincerely,

Denise Magi
Vice-President MEAO
And event organizer
(also member of the Interim Steering Committee
For the Campaign for OCEEH)

Legislative Assembly of Ontario Information: www.ontla.on.ca

Directions to the Ontario Legislature, Queen's Park, Toronto

Public Transit:

1) Get off at the Museum Subway of the University Line, cross at lights and walk south on Queen's Park Avenue, through the north end of Queen's Park, to the south entrance.

2) From Wellesley Subway, take Wellesley Bus west to Queen's Park Cres., cross at the lights walk through the grounds to Queen's Park.

3) If you choose the Queen's Park Subway (wheelchair accessible – Elevator), near South Queen's Park, or take the Carlton Streetcar from College Subway on the Yonge Line, please note there are no streetlights here to cross into Queen's Park so caution is needed.

Parking:

There is no onsite parking. Drop off and pick up is available, at Grosvenor St. and Queen's Park Cres. E. entrance. Drive with a friend or carpool. There is also paid parking across from Women's College Hospital and several other paid parking lots in the area.

Visit **Green P parking** website [www.parking. greenp.com](http://www.parking.greenp.com).

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