

NEWS RELEASE - Endometriosis advocacy efforts bolstered by Private Member's Motion

March 25, 2022

As Endometriosis Awareness Month draws to a close, EndoAct Canada was proud to see an extra boost of support in the form of a [Private Members Motion](#) from Don Davies, MP for Vancouver-Kingsway. Mr. Davies' motion acknowledges the impact and prevalence of endometriosis in Canada and supports the need for a national action plan for endometriosis.

"For far too long, those with endometriosis in Canada have been forced to endure needless suffering and debilitating pain due to long wait times for diagnosis and difficulties accessing appropriate care. It's time to take a comprehensive national approach to this chronic condition with real commitment and resources." - **Don Davies, MP (Vancouver Kingsway)**

The motion urges the Government of Canada to work in collaboration with the Canadian endometriosis community to establish a national action plan for endometriosis that promotes improved access to care, increased awareness and education of health care providers and the public, and supports further research.

The motion highlights that endometriosis is a chronic condition that affects at least one in ten women and unmeasured numbers of transgender, non-binary and two-spirit individuals. Approximately one million people in Canada live with endometriosis.

Mr. Davies introduced the motion after speaking with grassroots endometriosis advocate Nicole Carter, who has begun suffering with symptoms of endometriosis at 13 was diagnosed more than a decade later with stage 4 deep infiltrating endometriosis.

"The reason I'm advocating for change is that early intervention is lifesaving. My life would have looked completely different if I had one doctor believe me and investigate my pain. No one should have to go through a decade of being told *it's all in your head* and *it's just part of being a woman*. Endometriosis is extremely common and we do not have doctors and a medical system equipped and educated enough to take care of us. We deserve not to just survive but to actually be able to live our lives." – **Nicole Carter, endometriosis patient advocate**

Historic and systemic dismissal of women's pain has led to low awareness of the disease by the public and health care providers. As a result, it takes an average of five to 11 years for patients to receive an endometriosis diagnosis in Canada. Once diagnosed, people with endometriosis can wait years for surgery by an endometriosis expert or multidisciplinary chronic pain care. Expert endometriosis surgery and multidisciplinary chronic pain care are only available in certain regions of Canada.



Endometriosis is a complex, chronic disease that occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the uterus implants outside of the uterus to form lesions, cysts, and deep nodules. There is no definitive cause or known cure for endometriosis; the disease is managed with surgical care, other medical care, and multidisciplinary services.

Symptoms of endometriosis often start in early teenage years and include severe and chronic pain, infertility, and other symptoms that affect the whole body like fatigue. When these symptoms are not managed, they cause frequent absence from school or work, disrupt milestones like going to college or starting a family, and negatively affect mental health.

EndoAct Canada is calling on the federal government to create a national action plan for endometriosis. Building on examples set by Australia, France and other peer nations, we want a concrete plan to tackle endometriosis on all fronts: awareness, education, diagnosis, clinical management, and research. To ensure solutions are tailored to the needs of the Canadian endometriosis community, the federal government must consult with people who live with this disease.

For more information on national action plans in other countries across the world, visit our [website](#).

EndoAct Canada is an unincorporated not-for-profit organization with the goal of driving public policy action based on science and grounded in the needs of the endometriosis community. Our volunteers include people with endometriosis, health care providers, and researchers.

People available to speak with the media:

- Mr. Don Davies, Member of Parliament for Vancouver-Kingsway
- Ms. Nicole Carter, endometriosis patient advocate
- Ms. Kate Wahl, Executive Director of EndoAct Canada

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