

Dear CADA Members,

I am writing to you as CADA's President. We are looking to you, our members and supporters, to help refresh our mandate and provide direction at our upcoming Annual General Meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Yorkdale at 8:30 am.

CADA continues to play an important role as a solution to the provincial government's healthcare issues. Assistive Devices help to contain costs and improve health outcomes. CADA plays a critical role for the Assistive Devices sector and contributes, at the end of the day, to the success and sustainability of your business. ADP Director, Eva Roszuk along with Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care have been invited to attend. In addition, we will have Kendra MacLean from the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Many recent events have put the Assistive Devices in the news recently.

- 1) The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has announced that ADP will now be combined with the Ontario Drug Program, reporting to Helen Angus, Deputy Minister. For CADA members, this initially should be perceived as a good thing, as advancements in technology and electronic submissions will bring much needed advancements to the program. [Click here to read more.](#)
- 2) This week a question was raised in the Ontario Legislature by the an NDP MPP from Northern Ontario that supports CADA's efforts in regard to ADPs commitment to 6-week application approval times. [Click here to view.](#)

CADA has made strides in 2018 by formulating and developing our Government Relations strategy. CADA is now very well-positioned to have our message heard and resonate with decision-makers and we are in a stronger position than ever in recent memory.

In the Spring of 2018, CADA released our researched and fact-based Key Messages Brief, ***Assistive Devices: Proactive Solutions for Ontario's Seniors and Persons with Disabilities***. This document makes a compelling case supported by quantified research and data. This document has been widely used by the CADA board and members in meetings with Ontario government officials and industry stakeholders. *On November 19th, we will review this document and re-position it for the road ahead, if necessary.*

One major milestone of 2018 was the ADP Director and Program Manager presenting to us at our March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Their commitment was a return to a 6-8 week application approval time. Most recently Ontario vendors have seen a drastic delay in application approvals from the Assistive Devices Program. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, I sent the follow email to the Director and Program Managers at ADP. I since received positive response to an in-person meeting to be scheduled in November with the CADA Executive.



In late 2017, the Ontario Assistive Devices Service Providers formed a CADA subcommittee to specifically address the issues pertaining directly to Authorized Vendors in Ontario. This committee will be meeting again at the November 19<sup>th</sup> AGM.

As an association, we need to keep raising the bar on engagement to increase profile and solidarity. CADA currently has an opportunity to effect change by redefining our mandate and meeting with policy makers and influencers prior to our Queens Park day in the Spring of 2019.

Again, please join us on November 19<sup>th</sup> for our Annual General Meeting, as this is your opportunity to demonstrate solidarity and strength by having everyone attend and contribute to the development of CADA's strategy and mandate. It is your opportunity to be *present* and lend your voice to support CADA's efforts to raise its profile and to influence healthcare policy in respect to Assistive Devices in Ontario.

Thank you for your support now and in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Preston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Preston  
President, CADA Board of Directors