



MIKE COLLE, MPP

Eglinton-Lawrence

Wednesday March 19th, 2014

PRESS CONFERENCE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MPP Introduces Bill to Improve Sickle Cell Care in Ontario

Today, Wednesday, March 19th, 2014, Mike Colle, MPP Eglinton-Lawrence, will re-introduce a Private Member's Bill, the Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Care Ontario Act. If passed, the Act would establish a provincial body called Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Care Ontario in order to promote awareness and advocate for individuals living with these disorders. It would also proclaim June 19 as Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Awareness Day in Ontario, which coincides with World Sickle Cell Day, as proclaimed by the United Nations in 2009.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, March 19th, 2014

9:00am

Queen's Park Media Studio

Rm 148, Main Legislative Building

Panel will include:

- Lanre Tunji-Ajayi, Founder, Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario
- Helen Ziavras, President, Thalassemia Foundation of Canada
- Dr. Isaac Odame, Hospital for Sick Children

"The Bill is a focal point for telling the story about sickle cell. And by telling this story we can have more people getting genetic testing and counseling, more resources and more comprehensive care for both children and adults".

- Mike Colle, MPP Eglinton-Lawrence

"It is fitting that MPP Colle has chosen to re-introduce the Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Care Ontario Act. This Bill would raise the profile of the disease and advocate for coordinated efforts between governments, policy makers, healthcare professionals, patients/families and society at large to reduce the disease burden in Ontario.

On behalf of Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada, I look forward to a new day as we move toward Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Care Ontario."

- Lanre Tunji-Ajayi, Founder, Sickle Cell Awareness Group of Ontario

"Sickle Cell disease and Thalassemia are inherited life-long disorders requiring a coordinated provision of a broad range of services including early diagnosis, education, genetic counselling, management of acute crises, prevention of infections and organ damage, hydroxyurea therapy, chronic blood transfusion, iron-chelation therapy and long-term health maintenance. A comprehensive and coordinated approach yields better outcomes as well as being cost-effective."

- Dr. Isaac Odame, Hospital for Sick Children

For additional information, please contact:

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