



THE MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
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The Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Association of Ontario (MEAO)

Would like to extend an invitation to you to attend our

Community Engagement Day Event

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

On Tuesday, March 20th, 2018

From 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

RSVP REQUIRED BY March 12th, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of MEAO:

MEAO is inviting you to a Community Engagement Day at Queen's Park on Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 228-230 of the Legislature Building, Queen's Park. Light refreshments will be served.

NOTE: RSVP REQUIRED BY March 12th, 2018

Send your full name and the full name of all of your guests by the preferred method of email to info@meao.ca EMAIL is the preferred method of reply so that we can see the correct spelling of all names. If you do not have email access, 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. For security purposes, please also bring a piece of ID.

Note: Security at the Legislature building is very tight and strict. If you do not reply by March 12th, 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 at 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.

PROGRAM:

As you know, May 12th is the formal Awareness Day for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia (FM) and environmental sensitivities/multiple chemical sensitivity (ES/MCS) and we would have had an event at Queen's Park in May. However, given that Queen's Park will be in the midst of a provincial election, we have decided to have **an MEAO Community Engagement Day on Tuesday March 20th, 2018** because Legislature will be closed by end of March for preparations for the election.

MEAO is requesting an update from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) on the Task Force for Environmental Health and we'll also be requesting an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Task Force which was released to the public on September 29th, 2017.

The new Chair of the Task Force is Dr. Ray Copps, and he will be delivering remarks and updates on the task force. The former Chair, Dr. Howard Hu is still on the task force as a member but no longer Chair because he is on sabbatical from his position at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

Dr. Copps has a most impressive medical background; he is currently Chief, Environmental and Occupational [Health](#) at Public Health Ontario in Toronto. He is responsible for leading the Environmental and Occupational Health team as well as developing and implementing of Public Health Ontario's strategies and policies.

As always, there will be a number of Ontario MPP's from all political parties in attendance delivering messages of support of ME/CFS, FM and ES/MCS, the medical conditions we represent.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can help **by going to see your own local MPP** and asking them to request the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Environmental Health.

Background:

At the end of 2013, a business case proposal for the Ontario Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health was submitted to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care which sought to improve the quality of care and supports for Ontarians with the medical conditions myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia (FM) and environmental sensitivities/multiple chemical sensitivity (ES/MCS).

At the end of 2014, at an MEAO Community Engagement Day, 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.

At MEAO's awareness day event in May, 2016, it was announced that the Minister's Task Force on Environmental Health was set to begin and the first meeting of the task force convened on June 6th, 2016. A lot has happened since the task force began and the Interim Report with Phase 1 recommendations was publicly released on September 29th, 2017. At this point, we are looking to the MOHLTC for implementation of the recommendations in the interim report.

For more information on the Minister's Task Force on Environmental Health, go to:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/environmentalhealth/>

For more information on the **Business Case Proposal for the Ontario Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health**, go to the joint website of MEAO and AOHC, the Campaign for Ontario Centre of Excellence in Environmental Health, which is packed with information:

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

See Page 4 for the procedures and rules of Queen's Park. These rules must be abided by or access will not be allowed.

See Page 5 for Direction to Queen's Park.

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

Thank you all for your support and please continue your show of support, and let's see you all on Tuesday, March 20th.

Best Wishes from the MEAO Board.

Denise Magi
President, MEAO
And event organizer
(also member of the Minister's Task Force on Environmental Health)

Procedures for March 20th, 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 Community Engagement Day on March 20th
- 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 3:45 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 ES/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 more **Legislative Assembly of Ontario information** – go to:
- www.ontla.on.ca
- For directions and transit information to Queen's Park – see Page 5.

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](http://www.parking.greenp.com) website www.parking.greenp.com.