

Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative

A network of Canadian families committed to raising awareness of anaphylaxis on Parliament Hill and with federal government officials

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that may cause death. Reactions can have a rapid onset and are usually triggered by foods, insect stings, exercise, medication & latex

About CAI

The Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative (CAI) is a network of Canadian families, who are working with Members of Parliament to raise awareness in Ottawa regarding severe, life threatening allergies.

The families involved in CAI wish to see action on anaphylaxis issues at the federal level. We believe there are a few ways to achieve results:

- 1) Raise awareness with MPs and the Parliament Hill community (our law makers);
- 2) Support MPs with their dealings within bureaucracy (our policy makers); and,
- 3) Respond to current affairs re anaphylaxis (to impact Ottawa's decision making process).

For more information on the CAI, send your queries to

cai.allergies@gmail.com

or contact us at:

Canadian
Anaphylaxis Initiative
19 St. Lawrence Drive
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2M 2T7

Take Action

Contact your MP

Connecting with your federally elected representative is the single, most important thing you can do to help support these efforts, on behalf of all Canadian families living with severe allergies.

Write - E-mail

Phone - Visit

Tell your MP your story and concerns. Talk about your challenges in keeping your loved ones safe.

Your actions are very important and will determine our ultimate success. The more families MPs hear from, the better understanding MPs will have of how prevalent anaphylaxis is.

Find your MP contact info here:

[Members of Parliament](#)

ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS MOTION M-230

In June 2010, Niagara West Glanbrook MP Dean Allison gave notice for a motion that read:

"That in the opinion of the House, anaphylaxis is a serious concern for an increasing number of Canadians and the government should take the appropriate measures necessary to ensure these Canadians are able to maintain a high quality of life."

On March 21, 2011, the House of Commons debated the motion and MPs discussed a 5-Point Policy approach suggested by a network of Canadian families, recognized as

volunteers of the Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative (CAI). In that debate, the motion was supported by all four Parties.

Though the motion was lost with the call of the federal election, the motion achieved three important things:

1) The House of Commons debate is a point of reference for MPs and Ottawa officials on the degree of support there is for action on anaphylaxis issues;

2) The 5-Point Policy of the Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative was the central focus of debate for MPs;

3) All-Party support was expressed for the motion and for the approach suggested by the CAI's 5-Point Policy.

MP Dean Allison has re-introduced this anaphylaxis awareness motion in the House of Commons on June 15, 2011. Motion M-230 will be the subject of further debate and activities in Parliament.

To follow the progress of Motion M-230, stay informed at www.cai-allergies.ca

CAI Goals

POINT 1: Federal Coordination of programs and services dealing with anaphylaxis and food allergy information to provide guidance to the public and health care professionals.

POINT 2: Coordinated Awareness Campaigns to provide accurate and targeted information to groups such as the general public, medical professionals, first aid and emergency training providers, child care workers, food service providers and to those who work in the hospitality industry.

Canadian Anaphylaxis Initiative 5-Point Policy request of the Federal Government. These policy objectives are the group's primary goals:

POINT 3: Long Term Commitment to Research supporting a strategic response and more dollars for research, and standardized and evidence-based guidelines for diagnosis, management and treatment of food allergies and anaphylaxis.

POINT 4: Improved Allergen Labeling for foods, drugs, cosmetic and personal care products. Welcomed labeling regulations were announced February 2011, but more needs to be done, for example, regulating the use of precautionary allergen

statements such as "may contain," and consideration of an "allergy aware" symbol indicating that an item has indeed been reviewed for the 10 major allergens. Health Canada should follow through on commitments to improve allergen labeling.

POINT 5: Improved Transportation Safeguards relating to airline and public transportation policies that reduce risks for food allergic passengers; made in consultation with the anaphylaxis community.