



ACCKWA: The AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area

FAX MESSAGE: To All OAN Member Groups
FROM: Dave Grant
Positive Approaches Coordinator

RE: Trillium Drug Funding Program

MESSAGE: ACCKWA's PHA Caucus recently recognized the need for further action regarding the pending Trillium Drug Funding Program. We are especially concerned that a number of current treatments will not be covered under the new plan or that the required paperwork and redtape necessary for physicians to access these treatments would be time consuming and cumbersome. Attached is further information regarding this topic. I have also included a copy of the letter we are urging our supporters and service-users to send to the Minister of Health - Ruth Grier. We would appreciate your active support regarding this matter. If you should require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Dave Grant

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BACKGROUND

As the deadline for the proposed implementation of the Trillium Drug Program approaches, (April 1st 1995), there has been various discussions and negotiations at the Ontario Ministry of Health regarding issues of catastrophic drug funding and which drugs will be covered.

So far, the Ministry of Health has announced that it will only cover drugs currently listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary and Non-Formulary Lists. (The government currently only covers 100% of four AIDS drugs through the Special Drugs Program.)

However, there are many products already approved by the Federal Health Protection Branch and already in use for the treatment of AIDS related illnesses that are not covered by the Provincial government. Most private insurance companies also do not cover these products, as they are often considered "experimental".

The announced Trillium Drug Program barely begins to address the barriers that people face when trying to treat HIV. By including not only all approved drugs but experimental treatments and nutritional supplements as well, the Provincial government could go a long way in removing at least the financial barrier PWA's face when trying to access these treatments.

YOU CAN HELP!
**SIGN AND MAIL OR FAX THE ATTACHED LETTER TO THE
MINISTER OF HEALTH, TODAY.**

*Or you may return your signed letter to the ACCKWA office
and we will be happy to fax or mail it for you!*