

# MPP urges CF drug funding

A new drug is giving Cystic Fibrosis patients hope for the future, but they are awaiting provincial government approval for its funding, says MPP Ted Arnott.

The Wellington-Halton Hills MPP raised the issue in the Ontario Legislature last week and called on the government to approve funding for Kalydeco, a new medication which has shown great promise in treating some forms of CF.

Arnott was speaking to Bill 11, a bill dealing with Ontario's Air Ambulance service. He noted that the Liberal government's mismanagement of the Ornge Air Ambulance service has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars that could otherwise go toward much needed frontline health care services for Ontarians.



**TED ARNOTT**

To prove his point, Arnott told the Legislature about the case of Madison Phipps, a 17-year-old Georgetown resident who has suffered from Cystic Fibrosis from birth.

"A new medication called Kalydeco has recently been approved by Health Canada," said Arnott. "For some Cystic Fibrosis patients, it promises to be almost a miracle cure."

"Cystic Fibrosis Canada says that Kalydeco is the first therapy that targets the underlying cause of CF. It helps to improve the function of the defective protein, leading to better lung function, weight gain, and lower sweat chloride levels," Arnott explained.

"Kalydeco shows the greatest promise for CF patients who have Cystic Fibrosis with something called the "G551D mutation," Arnott continued. "Apparently, just over 100 Canadians with CF have this particular mutation. Maddie Phipps is one of them."

However, Kalydeco is currently not covered by OHIP and it is estimated that the drug would cost \$294,000 a year.

Earlier, the Canadian Drug Expert Committee recommended that Kalydeco be on the formulary listing of public funded drug plans for the treatment of Cystic Fibrosis in patients age six and older who have the G551D mutation.

Arnott noted that he had raised the issue with Health Minister Deb Matthews several times since learning of the potential of Kalydeco in helping patients like Phipps.

# The cat came back— 8 months later

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brought Logan in on Jan. 30 and said he was no longer able to care for the cat, which had to be placed on a strict diet during his five-week stay at the shelter.

"To see the reaction of the people at Upper Credit, they were completely surprised. They said they never see that happen," added Charlotte, a litigation law clerk.

"We're grateful to whoever had him. They really did care for him and love him. When Logan came back home he was super friendly with the kids, whereas before he didn't let them get close to him. The kids can actually pet him now."

Just how many of his nine lives Logan spent on his adventure is anyone's guess,

although he received a clean bill of health from the UCHS before being released. It's approximately 25 kilometres from the Fishbacks' address to Hillsburgh, straight up Trafalgar Rd., with predators such as wolves prevalent in the area.

"When we carted him home, he ran right to the basement where his food dish is and started eating, then slept under the computer desk, like he always did before," said Dave.

The Fishbacks have noticed Logan has a new love for dairy products and comes running when the fridge opens.

"Logan is now an indoor cat," Charlotte declared. "He has a microchip on him now from the shelter, so even if he makes a break for it, we'll know where he is."

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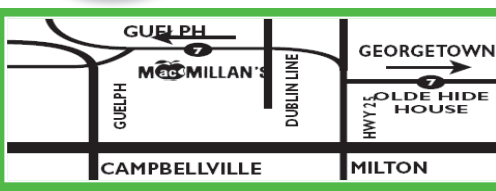
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