

Thank You Mr. Speaker

I rise today to bring the attention of the members of this House and all Ontarians to the estimated 1 million Canadian men, women, and children who suffer from Fibro-my-algia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, known commonly as FM-CFS.

May 12 is National Awareness Day for Fibro-my-algia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

FM means aching, throbbing, shooting, and stabbing pain in the muscles, ligaments, and tendons. Most FM patients say that they ache all over.

CFS sufferers experience debilitating exhaustion not reversed by rest, no matter how much they get.

576 new patients are diagnosed every week, although nearly all are initially misdiagnosed. These illnesses afflict more women than men, but are prevalent people of all ages.

There is no known means to avoid the illness. There is no known cause. There is no known cure.

Organizations like FM-CFS Canada are working with Canada's leading medical associations and experts to advocate on behalf of those afflicted by this disease, as well as to develop educational materials to help patients learn to deal with all aspects of their illness and improve their quality of life.

I am proud to note that FM-CFS Canada was founded in Ottawa in 1996 and continues their good work from there on behalf of Canadians, coast – to – coast – to – coast.

Especially I wish to recognize the dedication of President Graham Mayes, Vice-President Ed Napke, M.D.; and Kasia Majewski who inspired me to raise awareness for FM-CFS through this statement.

I encourage all members and all Ontarians to visit <http://www.fm-cfs.ca/> for more information on this difficult condition.

Thank You Mr. Speaker