**Email:** **Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org**

**Address:**

Hon. Sylvia Jones

Ministry of Health
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**TEMPLATE FOR LETTER TO ONTARIO MINISTER OF HEALTH**

Dear Minister Jones,

My name is **XX** and I am writing to you today to urge you to take action to address the dollars, delays and distress cancer patients in Ontario younger than 65 years face when they need a take-home cancer drug.

Together with cancer patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals across Ontario, I am extremely disappointed that improving access to take-home cancer drugs (THCDs) was not included in the Budget 2024 announcement yesterday. It was encouraging to see a commitment on this issue in Budget 2022. However, it has now been two years with no movement on the advisory table to explore improvements to THCDs with no start in sight. And now, it is being left behind entirely.

The well-being of cancer patients in our province should be a top priority. The current landscape that is Ontario’s system for delivering and funding THCDs is a patchwork of processes that leave cancer patients younger than 65 with out-of-pocket costs, months of delays to receive treatment and unnecessary distress when they need a THCD. Even a one-month delay in treatment can increase the risk of death by 10%. **This is not, and should not, be acceptable***,*

How is it that governments in the Western provinces, Northern Territories and Quebec have all developed mechanisms to offer equal, faster, and more affordable access to THCDs alongside IV drugs, while Ontario remains a decade behind? Now more than ever, we need to take decisive action to address these issues and ensure that all Ontarians have access to timely, affordable, and equitable cancer care opportunities.

I’m asking you to support cancer patients across the province and make sure the commitments in the Ontario government’s 2022 budget are kept. The financial burden placed on cancer patients for take-home medications is staggering. This strain often forces patients and families into difficult decisions, such as depleting savings, taking out loans, or forgoing essential treatment altogether due to unaffordability. No one should have to choose between their health and financial stability.

Thank you for your support and attention to this critical matter affecting cancer patients across Ontario.  I eagerly await your response and action on behalf of our community's most vulnerable. Together, we can build a better Ontario cancer system and ensure that all patients receive the care and support they deserve.

Sincerely,

**Your Name**
**Your Address**