



MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO
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May 11, 2009

Dear Friends of the MEAO:

*It is almost time for May 12th, the **International Day of Awareness for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**. This year, we are using May 12th to launch our campaign to open a Centre for our Association so people living with M.E./CFS and our volunteers finally have a place to go to get help and to help others.*

For many of you, every day is a day spent living or struggling with M.E., or it is a day spent loving someone who has M.E. You don't need a special day to focus on the impact of M.E./CFS and Fibromyalgia. Yet May 12th is important because on this day we focus the attention of our government and community leaders on the more than 1 million of Canadians who are ill with M.E. or FM. On this day, we ask them to commit the time and money needed to find a diagnosis, treatments and even a cure.

And this year, May 12th also becomes the day our Association commits to raising the \$38,000 it needs to open our first Centre for the MEAO!

We have been serving the community since 1991, but we have always operated from our homes, which severely limits our ability to help with all of the services you need. Our dreams are modest to start, just a small Centre:

- ♥ *With a place for our Info Line so volunteers can directly answer your calls without you having to leave a message all the time!*
- ♥ *We will have office hours when you can meet with us in person to ask for what you need;*
- ♥ *We will begin a library on M.E. and related illnesses for public use; and*
- ♥ *We will have a meeting room for volunteers, support groups and workshops.*

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has given us partial funding for our Provincial Coordinator for another 18 months and now is the time to raise as much money as we can and finally turn the corner and have our first MEAO Centre.

Please donate whatever you can to help make this dream possible. All donors of \$100 or more will be recognized in our Annual Report and donors of \$1,000 or more will be given special recognition. If you have already made your donation this year, we thank you.

If you have any questions for us, just give us a call at our Toronto or toll-free provincial number and our Provincial Coordinator, Theresa Dobko, will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

This is an exciting time for our Association and for people with M.E. in Ontario. With one special fundraising push to mark May 12th this year, we can open our Centre and begin to improve our services for many years to come. We thank all of you for your past support and if you are able, we hope you will go that extra mile this year and help us raise the \$38,000 needed to make our Centre a reality.

Sincerely,

Tony Rovito

*Tony Rovito
Board President*

1) You can donate by credit card online through CanadaHelps: with just a few entries on their secure website, we receive your donation and you receive a charitable tax receipt in your e-mail.

Just go to the main page of our website at <http://www.meao-cfs.on.ca> and you will find the CanadaHelps logo at the bottom of our Welcome page. Just click on that logo and DONATE NOW and CanadaHelps will take you step by step through your donation.

Can't find CanadaHelps on our website? Just go to <http://www.canadahelps.org> and type in MEAO in the Search Box and take it from there.

You can make a one-time donation on CanadaHelps or set up small monthly donations and spread your gift out over the whole year.

2) You can donate by cheque. Just mail us your cheque donation and we will send you a charitable tax receipt for your gift.

You can make a one-time donation or set up automatic monthly donations from your bank account. All cheque donors should complete the enclosed donation form and monthly donors should attach one copy of your cheque to the form and mark VOID on the cheque so the bank knows it is for a monthly deduction.