



Childhood  
Cancer Canada



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ADVOCACY FOR  
CANADIAN CHILDHOOD  
ONCOLOGY RESEARCH NETWORK

## Your Voice Matters!

In this federal election, **tell your candidate why childhood cancer matters to you** and to Canada. Share your personal connection, the urgent need for change, and ask:

Here are three versions of **emails/letters you might send as someone affected by childhood cancer**.

Take them and adapt them with your own experience and professional insights before sharing them with candidates via email, at community events, or during town hall meetings / candidate forums. Your personalized message will not only underscore the urgency of these issues but also position you as a trusted expert and advocate for pediatric cancer. This proactive approach will encourage candidates to integrate these vital concerns into their platforms and prioritize the health and future of young Canadians affected by cancer.

By using simple, common messages, we can ensure the voices of the wider community resonate together.

This Elections Canada site <https://www.elections.ca/scripts/vis/FindED?L=e&PAGEID=20> can help you find your local candidates.

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### Personal & Emotional Appeal with Policy Solutions

Subject: Childhood Cancer Needs Attention

Dear [Candidate's Name],

I am writing to you not just as a voter, but as someone personally affected by childhood cancer. [Share your personal connection—e.g., "My child was diagnosed with xxx at age xxxx."]

Cancer in children is not the same as in adults. The treatments are harsher on their growing bodies, leading to lifelong health problems. Worse, innovative treatments available for adults lag for children. Since 2000, Health Canada has approved around 1,000 cancer drug indications—but only about 12 were for pediatric use. Our children are being left behind.

If elected, I urge you to take action to address the unique challenges of childhood cancer by supporting:

- Sustained research funding for childhood, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) cancers.
- Access to better treatments, including proton radiation and CAR T-cell therapy.
- A national childhood cancer strategy that sets clear targets for improving survival and quality of life.

Each year, 150 children in Canada die from cancer—lives that could have been saved with better treatments. Please, make childhood cancer a priority in your platform. I would love to hear your stance on this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address or Postal Code]

[Your Email]

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## 2. Policy-Focused & Advocacy-Oriented

Subject: Action Needed: Young Cancer Patients Need Better Treatments

Dear [Candidate's Name],

As a voter in your riding, I am deeply concerned about to improve outcomes and treatments for childhood, adolescent, and young adult (CAYA) cancers. While cancer research has advanced significantly, children have been left behind. In the last two decades, nearly 1,000 new cancer drug indications have been approved in Canada—yet only around 12 have been for pediatric use.

This gap is unacceptable. Children do not get the same cancers as adults, and the treatments they receive often lead to devastating long-term effects. Meanwhile, Canada lacks access to vital therapies like proton radiation and has only few CAR T-cell therapy trials for children, compared to dozens in the U.S.

If elected, I urge you to commit to:

- Long-term, sustainable funding for pediatric cancer research.
- A national strategy to ensure young cancer patients are prioritized in health policies.
- National vision for critical treatments like proton therapy and CAR T-cell therapy.

Children should not have to suffer because Canada's cancer system is designed for adults. Will you advocate for these changes? I would appreciate your response on where you stand.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address or Postal Code]

[Your Email]

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### 3. Brief & Direct Call to Action

Subject: Where Do You Stand on Childhood Cancer?

Dear [Candidate's Name],

Cancer is the leading cause of disease-related death in Canadian children, yet our health system treats young cancer patients as an afterthought. Treatments are outdated, access to new therapies is delayed, and pediatric cancer research is critically underfunded.

If elected, will you support:

- Sustained funding for childhood cancer research?
- A national strategy to ensure better access to life-saving treatments?
- Investment in high-cost, high-impact therapies like CAR T-cell therapy and proton radiation?

Children with cancer deserve better. I look forward to your response on how you plan to address this urgent issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address or Postal Code]

[Your Email]

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