

Date

Firstname Lastname, MLA *or* MPP

Street address

City/town

Postal Code

Dear Mr/Ms Lastname,

As a member of your constituency and as someone personally touched by cancer, I am writing to you regarding the critical need for equal timely access to new treatments for melanoma patients in (Province). It is important to recognize both the amazing strides that innovative cancer treatments have been making in increasing survivorship rates over the last decade; yet there is still much improvement to be made regarding the treatment approval process, and patients receiving equal and timely access to appropriate treatments.

When I was diagnosed with melanoma in (year), there were fewer treatment options than there are today, and the medical system was more difficult to navigate. (Can include more details of personal experience here). While improvements have been made, there remains the necessity for us as a community for us to work harder on behalf of all Canadian melanoma patients.

Though the melanoma treatment landscape is rapidly evolving, melanoma incidence rates are rapidly rising, creating the need for continuous innovation. The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) estimated that in 2017, 7, 200 Canadians would be diagnosed with melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer; the CCS estimated mortality rates for melanoma to be 1, 250 Canadian deaths.<sup>1</sup> Since 2016, the number of diagnoses has risen by approximately 400, and the death toll by 125. Therefore, the fight for innovative treatments and an effective medical system for patients continues to be critical. I am writing to you as my elected representative to ask that you consider the need to immediately provide new, innovative treatments as a first line choice for patients and their health care providers throughout Canada through public funding. Though medical advances have made great progress toward survivorship, there is still more work to be done. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your name

Street address

City/town

Postal code

Phone number if applicable

Cc. Save Your Skin Foundation Canada

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<sup>1</sup> Statistical information in this paragraph obtained from the Canadian Cancer Society et al.'s *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2016: Special Topic: HPV-Associated Cancers* (2016) pp. 27 and 50, and *Canadian Cancer Statistics 2017: Special Topic: Pancreatic Cancer* (2017) pp. 38 and 62.