

Access to medication

I am writing to you as I do have a strong link to King Township. I was a resident of the village of Laskay from 1990 to December 2012, when I sold my property and moved to Toronto.

The Ontario Ministry of Health has refused to fund the drug ?Esbriet,? which has already been approved for use in Canada by the Federal Ministry of Health and by 27 European countries (of which 10 provide public funding).

This medication has been proven to slow the progression of mild to moderate Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis which is a progressive and eventually fatal disease which causes scarring of the lungs. Until recently the only recommended treatment has been a lung transplant.

Now here is a drug proven to slow down the progression of the disease and improve lung function, but due to the cost of the treatment (approximately \$42,000 per year), most sufferers in Ontario have no hope of accessing this first and only proven medication.

Why can't Ontarians receive the same care that so many other countries provide? The government needs to fund this drug to give those suffering with the disease a fighting chance.

Michael Jarvis

Toronto