

Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care

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## Sessional Paper No. P-13

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Petition relating to raising the ADP Grant amount to increase the coverage for Ostomy  
(Sessional Paper No. P-13) Mr. McDonell. (Tabled April 01, 2015)

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### Response:

The Assistive Devices Program (ADP) is one of the most generous programs of its nature in Canada and is universally accessible to all Ontarians with a valid Ontario health card number.

The mandate of the ADP is to provide funding to Ontario residents who have long-term physical disabilities to provide access to personalized assistive devices appropriate for the individual's basic needs.

The ADP is funded outside the requirements of the *Canada Health Act* and is not a mandated universal program. Since its inception, ADP has been a program of limited assistance both in terms of the people eligible and the benefits provided. This ensures that as many people as possible who need devices and eligible medical supplies receive funding support from the ADP.

The ADP provides assistance for more than 8,000 items among 19 different types of devices and supplies, including ostomy supplies.

Ontarians who have a permanent colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy, ileal conduit or continent pouch/reservoir may be eligible to receive the ostomy supplies grant from the ADP. An individual who has a temporary ostomy that will be in place for six (6) months or longer may also be eligible to receive the grant.

The current ostomy grant level is \$600 per year, per ostomy. Clients living in a long-term care home or receiving certain social assistance benefits from the Ministry of Community and Social Services receive \$800 per year, per ostomy. The grant is paid in two (2) instalments per year, issued every six (6) months.

The ostomy grant is not intended to fully cover each person's costs. It does, however, offer assistance to a large number of Ontarians. In fiscal year 2014/15, the ADP provided more than \$13 million in funding to 21,386 Ontarians for ostomy supplies.

The type of ostomy supplies used by each client may vary. The grant method of funding allows individuals to purchase the specific items they require and to shop around for the best available price. Most medical supply vendors have flexible payment plans that assist clients to make payments that suit their financial needs. As well, many vendors pass along bulk discounts to their clients.

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The ADP regularly reviews all device and grant level funding amounts. Because the type of ostomy supplies used by each client may vary, client expenditures also vary. If a client finds that their costs are high, they may wish to contact an enterostomal therapy (ET) nurse for an evaluation of their needs and the products that they use. An ET nurse may be able to suggest ways to reduce the quantity of supplies required or recommend less expensive products that continue to meet their needs. The vendor location where an individual purchases their supplies may have an ET nurse on staff or an individual could contact their local Community Care Access Centre to obtain information about an assessment. This can help to ensure that the individual is using the most appropriate supplies.

The ADP is one funding source in Ontario. Individuals receiving social assistance benefits should advise their case worker of their ostomy supply expenses beyond the grant amount. Social assistance may be able to provide additional funding as a mandatory benefit under "Surgical Supplies and Dressings". As well, private insurance may cover expenses above the grant level for reimbursement. Clients may also be able to claim the cost of the supplies in excess of the ADP grant as a medical deduction on their income tax return.



Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins