

## Script Outline For MLA Meetings

1. Introduce yourself and the person(s) with you. REMEMBER – it is important that you always take at least one other person with you. Make sure to note that you live in the riding. If asked if you represent anyone other than yourself, you can mention that you're part of a group of patients and caregivers concerned about access to medications, particularly medications for metastatic melanoma.
2. Explain that you are there to discuss a decision by Health Canada to approve the medication \_\_\_\_\_ for the treatment of melanoma. Mention that you will be asking your MLA to write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness about this issue and that you have with you a draft for their consideration.
3. Key Messages:
  - a. Melanoma is a life-threatening cancer of the melanocytes, cells that create melanin which control the color of your skin.
  - b. Medications are an important cornerstone of treatment for people with melanoma, and \_\_\_\_\_ is a new vital treatment that must be made accessible to patients in (your province)\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Tell your MLA a brief version of your personal story and the link you have to melanoma. Try to include the importance medications have played in your experience.
5. Core Facts – select and mention some of the core facts around melanoma – Fact Sheet
6. **Ask – I am asking you to write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness requesting that they immediately provide \_\_\_\_\_ as a choice to patients and their health care providers in \_\_\_\_\_ (prov) through public funding.**
7. Dialogue – press your MLA until they agree to write the letter and ask them if they would like a copy of the prepared draft you brought. Remember to ask to be copied on the letter that your MLA sends.
8. Conclusion – thank your MLA for their time and for agreeing to write the letter. Let them know that you will be following up in the coming days and weeks.