



September 9, 2026

Subject: Regulating the cost of assistive devices under the Ontario health care system

Hon. Doug Ford
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Hon. Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford and Ms. Jones,

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Ontario Council, a provincial organization with 48 clubs across Ontario and 4,700 members. CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, to improve public policy and to advocate for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls.

Ontario Council urges the government to act now to make Assistive Medical Devices more affordable for everyone who needs them in our province. Assistive devices — mobility aids, hearing aids, communication devices, and the many other tools that fall under the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) are not optional extras. For hundreds of thousands of Ontarians living with disabilities, chronic illness, or the effects of aging, these devices make it possible to work, learn, care for family, and participate in community life.

Under the current ADP model, the Ministry funds a share of the cost of an approved device up to a fixed price ceiling, and the client is responsible for the remainder — typically a minimum 25 percent contribution, the full difference for any device priced above the ADP maximum. Because ADP price ceilings are not consistently reviewed against the real cost of devices on the market and that gap has widened over time, leaving many Ontarians, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, and low-income households unable to afford devices essential to their health and independence.

As the cost of assistive devices continues to rise, the province's funding structure has not kept pace. This is a health care affordability issue, not a discretionary purchase, and we believe it warrants concrete legislative actions:

1. Confirm that the definition of health care in Ontario explicitly includes assistive devices, consistent with their treatment under Ministry of Health Regulation 134/98, so that funding and coverage decisions are grounded in that recognition; and

2. Establish an Independent Assistive Devices Review Board with a mandate to review and regulate the costs of assistive devices, so that ADP funding levels and price ceilings reflect the real current cost of the devices Ontarians rely on.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

S. Shaw

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