

Save Your Skin Foundation Applauds FAST Program: Canada's First Fast-Track for Breakthrough Cancer Drugs

October 7, 2025 – TORONTO, ON: Save Your Skin Foundation, along with All.Can Canada and ACTION, commend the Government of Ontario for its pioneering announcement of the *Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) Program*, a new initiative designed to significantly reduce the time it takes for patients to access high-priority medicines.

With the launch of the FAST program, Ontario becomes the first province in Canada to fast-track access to innovative, life-saving cancer drugs, cutting wait times by up to a full year. This 3-year pilot will expedite 7 to 10 priority cancer drugs annually through Project Orbis, connecting patients to treatments faster by removing the traditional delays in public funding processes.

“We are glad to see true leadership in cancer care in this important milestone that isn’t just about speed, but about renewed hope for patients and families who can’t afford to wait,” says Kathleen Barnard, Founder of Save Your Skin Foundation. “We’re thrilled to see Ontario leading the way with the new FAST program. It is a step toward faster, fairer access to life-saving cancer treatments.

On average, Canadian patients wait nearly two years to access new publicly funded medicines – a full year longer than patients in other developed countries. The FAST program means prioritizing patient access, tackling process delays head-on, and positions Ontario as a national leader in rethinking cancer care.

“At ACTION, we applaud this bold step forward and we urge the Ontario government to make FAST permanent beyond the pilot,” says Louise Binder, health policy expert and Co-Chair of ACTION. “Cancer doesn’t wait, and neither should access to treatment.”

Save Your Skin Foundation also calls on other provinces to follow Ontario’s lead. Every Canadian deserves timely access to breakthrough cancer therapies, no matter where they live. Read the [official press release](#) for more information.

Call to action: We urge the Ontario government to make FAST a permanent program and encourage other provinces to follow suit. Let’s keep the momentum going!

About Save Your Skin Foundation:

Save Your Skin Foundation (SYSF) is a national patient-led not-for-profit group dedicated to the fight against non-melanoma skin cancers, melanoma and ocular melanoma through nationwide education, advocacy, and awareness initiatives. Save Your Skin Foundation is committed to playing an active role in reducing the incidence of skin cancer in Canada, and to providing compassionate support for all Canadians living with skin cancers.