



23 Rathfon Crescent, Richmond Hill, ON, L4C 5B6

The Health Professions Appeal and Review Board
151 Bloor Street West, 9th Floor
Toronto, ON. M5S 1S4
Attention Ms. Christy Hackney, Acting Registrar

The Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons
80 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2E2
Attention: Ms. Sandy McCulloch
Director, Investigations and Resolutions

Re: Appeal of CPSO Complaint, File No. 1100233

August 2, 2018

Dear Ms. Hackney and Ms. McCulloch

I write to you on behalf of the Ontario Autism Coalition to request that the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario improve their standards for reviewing complaints about phony autism treatments and "cures."

The Ontario Autism Coalition, founded in 2005, is a grassroots political advocacy group with over 4,500 members. We are dedicated to advocating for accessible and evidence-based services for individuals with autism and their families and we practice autism acceptance, taking a healthy approach to the challenges our families face.

Treatments such as chelation and MMS bleach do not cure (or even treat) autistic children and can be extremely harmful. Instead of providing relief for individuals with autism, they redirect time and money from families who could be accessing meaningful interventions for their child.

Any regulating body that has questions about an autism therapy should consult with autism experts to confirm that it is evidence-based. We would encourage you to look at the Report of the Ontario Scientific Task Force for the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder, linked [here](#). Concerns by Ontario parents, patients or community members about this issue should not be dismissed without consulting autism experts.

The challenges faced by families living with autism can be significant, particularly for those who have been waitlisted for services. We understand how it could be possible for a parent to turn

to a “miracle cure” such as chelation without seeing the damage these phony “cures” do to families and individuals with autism when the so-called miracle doesn’t happen.

We urge the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to follow the the lead shown by the British Columbia College of Naturopaths and B.C.’s chief medical officer in [responding](#) to complaints about three naturopaths who claimed to be able to “cure” autism. We also urge you to speak out against the various phony “cures” being advertised to families in Ontario and to consider the harm they can do, especially to children.

If you have any questions about the Ontario Autism Coalition, our advocacy work and our positions on autism funding and services, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Laura Kirby McIntosh, B.A., B.Ed., O.C.T., Q.S.D.
President,
Ontario Autism Coalition

#AutismDoesntEndAt5

The Ontario Autism Coalition is a non-profit Ontario corporation dedicated to advocacy and political action on behalf of people with autism.

www.ontarioautismcoalition.com