

# Ontario Providing Access to Lifechanging Treatment for Cystic Fibrosis Patients

Ontario is now providing coverage for Trikafta, the latest and most effective treatment option for cystic fibrosis to become available, under its publicly-funded drug program to give patients more access to lifechanging treatments for cystic fibrosis.

“Our government has taken urgent action to ensure all cystic fibrosis patients will have more timely access to the effective and lifechanging treatments they need,” said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “Providing coverage for Trikafta is one more way our government is building a sustainable, modern and connected health care system that will expand coverage to new and innovative treatments and provide high-quality health care to patients for years to come.”

In addition to the drugs Orkambi and Kalydeco, the first drugs in this class to treat cystic fibrosis and currently funded through the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program, Ontario is now also providing coverage for Trikafta, giving patients access to more options for treatment they need. Ontario patients aged 12 and up who do not meet the lung function criteria may work with their clinician to apply to the Exceptional Access Program (EAP) to be considered for funding on a case-by-case basis.

The drug was approved by Health Canada in June 2021 in an aligned review with the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), allowing for near simultaneous issuance of Health Canada’s Notice of Compliance and CADTH’s draft reimbursement recommendation and expediting the review and recommendation process. A positive health technology assessment was received through the CADTH drug review process. This process provides critical insight from patients, clinicians and experts to ensure drug funding recommendations are evidence-based and consider clinical benefit and cost-effectiveness.

The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) accelerated the negotiations process to reach a mutual agreement on terms with Vertex Pharmaceuticals for Trikafta and Ontario has moved quickly to initiate funding.

“Trikafta is the single greatest innovation in cystic fibrosis history and it has the power to transform the lives of thousands of Canadians,” said Kelly Grover, President and CEO, Cystic Fibrosis Canada. “The cystic fibrosis community in Ontario has fought long and hard to get this drug into their hands. Access to Trikafta will mean longer and healthier lives for so many people and the ability to plan for a future that many feared they might not live to see.”

## Quick Facts

- Cystic fibrosis is a rare and progressive genetic disease that causes thick mucus to build up in the lungs, digestive tract and other parts of the body. It causes persistent lung infections and leads to loss of lung function.
- It is estimated that one in every 3,600 children born in Canada has cystic fibrosis. There is currently no cure for cystic fibrosis. An estimated 1,500 Ontarians have cystic fibrosis.
- At list price, Trikafta costs approximately \$300,000 per patient per year.



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## Tree Trust TBM completes professional care for another legacy tree in our community – the 5<sup>th</sup> since the organization was launched in July 2020

On September 23, 2021, Tree Trust TBM completed life extending conservation care on a lovely old sugar maple on The Georgian Trail, just east of Wards Road. This tree, like our very first Tree Trust TBM tree on the Georgian Trail at 10<sup>th</sup> Line, is old enough to have been standing *before* the railway was built and, of course, before the railway was removed and transformed into the Georgian Trail. A homeowner living close to this tree was very happy to see it being cared for and remarked that “this tree was already really big and when we first moved here 40 years ago!”. He also mentioned how much the tree is appreciated and enjoyed and that his wife would be “none too happy if anything bad happened to it”.

The Arboreal Tree Care team took great care, as they have done for all of our Tree Trust TBM trees, completing a thorough assessment and implementing sustaining conservation care.

Thank you to the Thornbury-Clarksburg Rotary and to individual donors from across TBM for financial support of this important work. Check out [www.treetrust.ca](http://www.treetrust.ca) to learn about our tree work and seedling nursery.

## Legacy Tree Seed and Sapling Harvest



Let the harvest begin! The Tree Trust TBM native tree seedling nursery, located at Tomahawk Park, has been sited and tilled and our next big step is to collect viable tree seeds and saplings from local mature trees.

We are looking for seeds or small saplings from older trees that have demonstrated successful adaptation to the area. We are hoping to source trees that are native to our area including sugar, red, silver and black maple, white, burr and northern oak, American basswood, paper and yellow birch and ironwood.

If you are able to collect seeds from older, well established local trees this fall, please store them in a dry container or bag, label the source location and contact Tree Trust TBM. If you have small saplings that are growing within the canopy of an older, established tree, please let us know if you are willing to let us come by and dig up a few for transplant to the nursery.

Contact Tree Trust TBM [townofthebluemountains@treetrust.ca](mailto:townofthebluemountains@treetrust.ca) or call the Review at 519-599-3345