

Editor's note: Ed Stelmach is Premier of Alberta, Canada (the home province of Direct-MS); Mr. Zwozdesky is the provincial Minister of Health; Mr. Horne is the opposition health critic; Mr. Blackett is the sitting representative of the author of this letter.

Messieurs Stelmach, Zwozdesky, Blackett and Horne
Gentlemen

I am contacting all of you with the intent of bringing the issue of Chronic Cerebrospinal Venous Insufficiency (CCSVI) to your attention. Should you not already be aware, CCSVI is a major paradigm shift in our knowledge in the pathology of Multiple Sclerosis. CCSVI was discovered by Italian researchers and first published in the medical literature in 2009. They discovered that in persons with MS, the veins which acted as the main drainage pathways for blood flowing from the brain back to the heart were substantially narrowed and even blocked. Rather than expound on the details of CCSVI in this communiqué, I will instead direct you to other sources that effectively demonstrate the concept and how it relates to MS.

The organisation that I am a member of, [Direct-MS](#), brought CCSVI to the attention of Avis Favaro and CTV in the fall of 2009. They eventually produced an excellent W5 [episode](#) that introduced Canada en masse to this revolutionary concept. The effect has been to polarize the MS community as sufferers of MS have demanded action from a complacent medical system. Evidence of this patient activism was recently demonstrated by the more than 900 attendees at a recent CCSVI information session hosted by Direct-MS (see attached poster). These individuals are exasperated with their consistently diminishing lives and it is compounded by a system of health care that is overtly suppressing the CCSVI as evidenced in the attached pdf document entitled Valentic letter.

I am travelling to Poland later this month to undergo detection and subsequent intervention of CCSVI to address my ever deteriorating state of MS plagued health. The fact that I and other Albertans have to travel to a foreign country for such medical attention should strike a chord of enormous irony in each of you. Alberta has the dubious distinction of having the world's highest prevalence of MS; an occurrence well documented in the Direct-MS generated pamphlet [The Alberta Disadvantage](#). Given the significant burden we collectively share of this disease, Alberta should be at the fore of assessing the veracity of the CCSVI theory concurrent with the detection and intervening of CCSVI in MS patients.

CCSVI represents a unique opportunity for politicians in Alberta to employ leadership and vision by directly addressing a tragic problem and potentially resolving it. Already two MP's have already begun this type of initiative as detailed in this recent G&M [article](#). Not only could addressing CCSVI alleviate the suffering of people with MS and prevent the disease from ever becoming symptomatic in predisposed individuals but it could also reduce by hundreds of millions of dollars the enormous cost that MS encumbers our health care system with.

I am also attaching to this email a letter composed by Rebecca Cooney and Andrew Katz. It eloquently addresses CCSVI in a plea to your federal brethren. Please do not let this enormous opportunity pass by without your concerted attention and action. It's a once in lifetime opportunity to participate in a positive history making event and presumably it's why each of you are active in public service.

Sincerely
Nick Topolnyski
Vice President Direct-MS