



Canadian Organization
for Rare Disorders



Rare Disease Day 2026 Webinar

**ACCELERATED ACCESS TODAY, DEMONSTRATING
VALUE FOR 2026 AND BEYOND**

This Rare Disease Day, join CORD for a 1-hour webinar celebrating the first 1.5 years of Canada's Rare Disease Drug Strategy (RDDS)—highlighting concrete progress in 2025, emerging access pathways, and the policy choices needed to sustain and expand impact for people living with rare diseases.

We will spotlight **four successful initiatives from 2025** followed by a **forward-looking panel discussion** on extending RDDS into 2026 and exploring **FAST-style pathways for rare cancers and other rare diseases** as complementary—or alternative—approach to accelerate RDDS processes.

REGISTER NOW



Friday

Fri Feb 27, 2026



Time

12:00pm – 1:00pm EST

Join CORD in recognizing progress—and helping define the future of rare disease access in Canada.

Spotlight Presentations

The Visible and Hidden Costs of Rare Disease – Lesley Soril, Institute of Health Economics

New findings from the CORD / IPSOS / IHE survey on the socioeconomic burden of rare disease across families, health systems, and society—worsened by delayed diagnosis and access to care and treatment

Canada’s Rare Disease Drug Strategy: What’s Working – Durhane Wong-Rieger, CORD

Early evidence of faster, more equitable access for new rare disease drugs—and why continued momentum matters

Evidence-Informed Access Frameworks – Rebecca Marsh, Institute of Health Economics

A structured public reimbursement framework that enables patient access while systematically generating and reviewing real-world evidence to inform future funding decisions.

Ontario FAST & RDDS: Complementary Pathways to Accelerated Access – Dr. Sandeep Sehdev, Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre

Ontario’s FAST program providing immediate funding for six cancer drugs addressing high unmet need and opening opportunities for extension to rare cancers and other rare diseases as complementary, alternative pathway

Panel Discussion: Looking Ahead

Extending RDDS and Accelerated Access into 2026—and Beyond

Moderator: Bill Dempster, 3Sixty Public Affairs

Panelists:

- Mitch Moneo, Former ADM, Pharmaceutical Lab and Blood Services, BC Health
- Dr. Jennifer Adams, Parent and Family Physician, Ottawa
- Dr. Zobaida Al-Baldawi, Patient and Medical Resident, Toronto
- Rebecca Marsh, IHE

This multi-stakeholder panel including payer and patients/parents accessing therapies in “common list” funded by RDDS, and health economist will explore:

- Priorities for the second half of RDDS
- Lessons from FAST and steps to remove barriers to rapid access for unmet needs
- Achieving Evidence-Informed Access Frameworks to address uncertainties of rapid access to innovative drugs for patients, payers, and pharmaceuticals
- A proposal and vision for a second national Rare Disease Drug Strategy (RDDS 2.0)