

## Advocacy Update

Maureen McTeer, Osteoporosis Canada's National Patron, and our board of directors met with MPs and bureaucrats on Parliament Hill in late October 2006. The purpose was to bring forward a National Osteoporosis Strategy.

Osteoporosis Canada is seeking federal funding through Health Canada to launch a program to place Osteoporosis Canada-trained post-fracture screening coordinators in fracture clinics across the country.

The National Strategy's objective is to reduce fractures, morbidity, mortality and costs from osteoporosis through this targeted approach. The coordinators will screen for



***Relaxing in Hill Day headquarters from left to right are: Dr. Earl Bogoch, past President of the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, Dr. Famida Jiwa, Vice-President, Osteoporosis Canada and Karen Ormerod, President & CEO, Osteoporosis Canada.***

fragility fracture patients in the clinics and provide the appropriate support to connect patients with community-based services as needed. This care will help prevent the incidence of osteoporosis-related hip fractures which are painful, debilitating and costly.

Already launched in Ontario, the screening program which is funded by the provincial Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care has commissioned Osteoporosis Canada and the Ontario Orthopaedic Association to undertake this important work.

Since the meetings in October, OC has provided details and updates to Ministers of Health in several provinces as well as other policy makers in Ottawa. In early 2007, more provincial Ministries of Health will be contacted and work will begin on building a nation-wide consensus on funding a National Osteoporosis Strategy.

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## Men and osteoporosis

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spine, and may be particularly beneficial for men with hypogonadism. Parathyroid hormone therapy has also been shown to improve BMD in men.

1500 mgs of calcium and 800 IUs of vitamin D per day are recommended as a necessary adjunct to any medication. For men over 50, these amounts are also recommended for risk reduction of osteoporosis. Men over 50 are urged to discuss their risk factors for osteoporosis during their next physical exam and, if they have one major or two minor risk factors, to go for a bone mineral density test. All men 65 and over should have a bone density test and follow up appropriately.