

1 in 5 Canadians is currently living with one of the four major blinding eye diseases (age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts)

Over 1.5 million Canadians are blind or partially sighted as a result of retinal diseases

Since the most common eye diseases are age-related and as Canada's population continues to age, the number of Canadians living with vision loss is expected to double in the next 25 years

With the highest direct health care costs, vision loss poses a significant burden in Canada

The financial cost of vision loss in Canada is estimated at \$15.8 billion annually, with direct costs to the healthcare system at \$9.5 billion

Health costs of vision loss are far ahead of diabetes, mental disorders, cancer, respiratory diseases, or cardiovascular disease

Biosimilars in ophthalmology are an emerging field in the treatment of eye conditions

75 percent of vision loss is preventable or treatable

On World Sight Day, Canadians are being called to recognize the risk of mandatory switching that may limit their eye care

The WHO World Report on Vision emphasizes the urgent need to galvanize action to respond to considerable challenges facing over 2.2 billion people living with vision impairment globally.

In Canada, an estimated 5.59 million Canadians have an eye disease that could cause vision loss.

IFA's Eye See You: Advocating for Options in Eye Health program is positioned to help build capacity across sectors and disciplines to address knowledge gaps and amplify collective voices of Canadians with vision-threatening eye diseases and their health professionals in calling for access to safe, appropriate, and effective vision treatments.

The IFA and allied partners want Canadians to recognize the potential risks involved in mandatory switching to biosimilars, and how they can ensure their health rights are not restricted.