

Let us help you attend the 2026 POGO Multidisciplinary Symposium on Childhood Cancer!

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE LETTER

This template was developed to help you obtain approval from your supervisor/manager to attend the 2026 POGO Multidisciplinary Symposium on Childhood Cancer (POGO Symposium) and to also help you request bursary funds, available at your centre from POGO, to help cover the costs of attending the Symposium.

HOW AND WHEN SHOULD I ASK ABOUT ATTENDING THE 2026 POGO SYMPOSIUM?

The sooner, the better! New to Symposium this year? This is a great opportunity to connect with peers across the province and stay current on emerging research and updates!

MY SUPERVISOR/MANAGER DOESN'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME.

That's okay! You can customize your request by selecting the elements that are most relevant to your role.

I MAY QUALIFY FOR A BURSURY. HOW DO I KNOW FOR SURE?

Ask your supervisor/manager! POGO has set aside funds for each tertiary and satellite location. We even have grants available for trainees.

THIS ALL SOUNDS GREAT. WHAT IF MY SUPERVISOR/MANAGER WANTS TO LEARN MORE?

Please let them know that more details can be found on our website:

[POGO Symposium | Childhood Cancer Conference 2026 - POGO - Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario](#)

SUBJECT: Request to Attend the 2026 POGO Multidisciplinary Symposium on Childhood Cancer

Dear **<Insert Your Supervisor's/Manager's Name>**,

I am requesting approval to attend **POGO's Multidisciplinary Symposium on Childhood Cancer**, taking place **November 20–21 in Hamilton, Ontario**, as well as the **Psychosocial Pre-Symposium Day on November 19**.

By attending, I will receive:

- Current bench-to-bedside approaches in acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) and learn about the impact on patient outcomes
- Best practices for delivering culturally safe and inclusive care, including care for Indigenous populations and 2SLGBTQ+ patients
- Trauma-informed care principles for healthcare professionals and their application in pediatric oncology settings
- Royal College Section 1 credits, available through this accredited continuing professional development activity, approved by Continuing Professional Development, University of Ottawa
- Opportunities to participate in collaborative discussions
- Opportunities to engage with peers and learn from people with lived experience

Here is an approximate breakdown of costs associated with my attendance:

- Early-bird registration: **\$(insert cost)**
- Accommodations: The Sheraton Hotel at the block rate of **\$(insert cost)** /night plus tax (booking ahead is strongly recommended since there are limited rooms available at this rate)
- Transportation costs: Mileage **\$(insert cost)** or Train **\$(insert cost)** or Flight **\$(insert cost)** Parking **\$(insert cost)**
- Meals: most meals and snacks will be provided. I estimate my meal cost to be **\$(insert cost)**

Based on the estimated costs above, the approximate cost for me to attend the POGO Symposium is **\$(insert cost)**

I know! It sounds like an excellent opportunity! Here's the link to learn more:

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When I return from the POGO Symposium, I will be excited to share with you and the oncology team the latest updates in patient and family support, as well as emerging developments in pediatric oncology research. I will also gain new skills in healthcare professional wellness that I look forward to bringing back and sharing with the entire team. Attendance at the POGO Symposium will support my professional development goals, as well as the ongoing requirements of professional regulatory programs. With this new knowledge and perspective, I will be able to bring my best self to work, contribute to continuous quality improvement, and help improve care and outcomes for our patients.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support my professional development. Can I start packing my bags?

Sincerely,
<Your Name>

Program Summary of the 2026 POGO Multidisciplinary Symposium on Childhood Cancer!

Thursday, November 19 – Saturday, November 21, 2026

ADVANCING COMMUNICATION, TRANSITION, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Explore practical strategies that support children, adolescents, survivors, and families throughout the cancer journey. Topics include Serious Illness Conversations, School & Life Re-Entry, Assessing Fear of Cancer Recurrence in Pediatric Survivors, Doing Tough Things the Right Way: Adapting Child Life Principles to Support Behavioural Patients, Comedic Relief: Exploring the Therapeutic Power of Play and Humour in Pediatric Oncology, and A Guide for Newcomers: Navigating Canada's Healthcare System.

EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING IN PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

Learn how to create more inclusive, culturally responsive, and equitable care environments through sessions on Affirming Care for 2SLGBTQIA+ Patients and Families in Pediatric and AYA Oncology, Trauma-Informed Care, and Indigenous Patient Care.

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD AND FAMILY

Discover multidisciplinary approaches that promote physical, emotional, and psychosocial well-being through sessions such as The Hospital is Larger Than Your Bed: Helping Children Move, Play and Participate During Cancer Treatment, Feeding Through Treatment: Understanding Multiple Perspectives on Nutrition Challenges and Support, Naturopath Role with Pharmacy & Oncology, and Treating Fear of Recurrence in Pediatric Oncology: Survivors and Parents.

INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

Stay informed on the latest advances in pediatric oncology, including Liquid Biopsy, Brain Tumor Update, Research Quick Hits, The Next Chapter of Blinatumomab: Who Benefits, How We Deliver It, and Where We Go Next, Artificial Intelligence in Oncology, Guideline Implementation, SSPedi Update, Oncological Dermatology, and Pharmacy Price is Right.

PATIENT AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP IN CARE

Explore the critical role of patients, survivors, and families in shaping care through sessions featuring a PWLE Perspective, Ethically Challenging Cases, Results & Note Release, and From Consultation to Co-Leadership: Partnering with Patients and Families to Shape Pediatric Oncology Care.

CONNECTING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

In addition to plenary presentations, attendees will have opportunities to engage in Poster Viewing, Special Interest Sessions, and POGO's Peer Networking Event, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among pediatric oncology professionals, researchers, patient partners, survivors, and family members from across Ontario.

Tips to help you make your case!

EMPHASIS ON INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING

What you can say: "The interdisciplinary format will allow me to learn how other professions are addressing challenges such as symptom management, communication, rehabilitation, and family support."

FOCUS ON IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES

What you can say: "The sessions will provide practical approaches that can improve patient experience, symptom management, and family-centred care within our program."

MENTION NETWORKING & BEST PRACTICES

What you can say: "The POGO Symposium brings together pediatric oncology professionals from across Canada, creating opportunities to learn innovative approaches and bring proven practices back to our organization."

CREATE A BUSINESS CASE:

What will I learn?

How will it improve care?

How will I share it?

How does this relate to our shared team goals and my personal development?