AB/NWT
15/16
Canadian Cancer Society
Community Report
Alberta and
Northwest Territories
cancer.ca
Thank you for making the greatest impact in the fight for life

Your investment in the Canadian Cancer Society is an investment in change. Thank you for helping to change cancer from something many Canadians fear to something more people are beating or preventing in the first place.

You have great vision
There are more than 200 types of cancers. Together, we fight them all from coast to coast. Your donations and volunteer efforts in 2015 were instrumental in helping us raise critical funds to achieve our mission: the eradication of cancer and enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer (see page 4).

You fund exceptional research
Thanks to you, the Society was able to invest $44 million in groundbreaking research in 2015 – including the funding of 11 researchers based in Alberta (see page 1).

You’re here for Canadians
Last year, your support ensured nearly 11,600 Albertans and people living in the Northwest Territories (NWT) received the caring support they needed throughout their cancer journeys (see pages 2-3).

You’re stopping cancer before it starts
About half of all cancers can be prevented by living well, moving more and through the creation of healthy public policies. That’s why you helped us to successfully advocate for legislation in 2015 that protects youth from an unnecessarily high risk of developing cancer (see page 4).

Thank you for your unwavering and impactful support. We look forward to continuing to work with you to reach the day when no Canadian fears cancer.

Dan Holinda
Executive Director, Canadian Cancer Society
Alberta and Northwest Territories

Kevin Morgans
Board Chair, Canadian Cancer Society
Alberta and Northwest Territories
Oncolytic virus therapy – which involves injecting patients with a virus that seeks and destroys cancer cells while leaving healthy cells untouched – is one of the most promising next-generation therapies for cancer. One of the challenges facing this treatment, however, is figuring out how to ensure the virus travels efficiently through the bloodstream to the tumour without being destroyed by the body’s natural immune defences.

Dr Douglas Mahoney and Dr Craig Jenne of the University of Calgary received a Canadian Cancer Society Innovation Grant in 2015 for their novel work that promises to reveal valuable insights into this issue. They are attaching fluorescent particles to oncolytic viruses so they can be tracked through the bloodstream using microscopes. Seeing where the virus goes and how it finds cancer cells could enhance the delivery of oncolytic viruses to maximize treatment benefit.

“Transformative discoveries come from innovative, often ‘high-risk’ research,” says Dr Mahoney. “Keep funding this type of science and good things will come.”

Innovative and impactful Alberta-based research

Researchers who are finding ways to better prevent cancer:
- Dr Darren Brenner, Alberta Health Services Cancer Control
- Dr Christine Friedenreich, Alberta Health Services Cancer Control
- Dr Katerina Maximova, University of Alberta

Researchers who are improving cancer treatments:
- Dr David Brindley, University of Alberta
- Dr Mark Glover, University of Alberta
- Dr Michael Hendzel, University of Alberta
- Dr John Lewis, University of Alberta
- Dr Douglas Mahoney, University of Alberta
- Dr Allan Murray, University of Alberta
- Dr Stephen Robbins, University of Calgary
- Dr Roger Zemp, University of Alberta

Visit cancer.ca/research to learn more about the life-saving cancer research you are supporting.
You’re providing empowering peer support

Jeanne Perreault had the unwavering support of her family after she was diagnosed with colorectal cancer last year at the age of 61. Her sister-in-law had also been diagnosed with colorectal cancer the year before. But her treatment did not include the invasive surgery that Jeanne needed – surgery that would leave her with a colostomy bag.

“I wasn’t sure I could do it,” says Jeanne, who lives in Red Deer, AB. “The surgery is life changing and body altering. But I had grandkids to live for.”

Unsure of what to expect from the surgery and what life would be like afterward, Jeanne started looking for answers online.

Then, a nurse at the Red Deer Regional Hospital told her about CancerConnection, the Society’s telephone-based peer support program that matches cancer patients and caregivers with someone who has shared a similar journey. Jeanne was matched with a woman who underwent a similar aggressive surgery and had been living with a colostomy bag for 10 years.

“Talking to someone who’s been through it makes a huge difference,” says Jeanne. “It puts your mind at ease. My match was always so supportive and was very good about giving little tips of what worked for her. Talking to her got me through my ordeal.”

“You hear a lot of personal stories from people who have been affected by cancer. It makes you realize the positive impact you’re having in the community by volunteering.”

Connor MacLean, Archbishop O’Leary High School student and Daffodil Month volunteer

Photo: Erin Livingston
You’re alleviating the financial burden of cancer

Ida Storozuk’s last moment with her only son was heartbreakingly beautiful.

“As he was fading away, he opened up his eyes and lifted his hand off the mattress just high enough so he could wave goodbye,” she recalls.

Andrew Storozuk was 32 years old when he passed away from a rare and aggressive form of colon cancer in November 2015. The diagnosis was a shock to him, his mother and three sisters as no one else in their immediate or extended family had ever been affected by cancer.

Andrew underwent multiple tests and surgeries following his July 2014 diagnosis, but his treatments were fraught with complications.

“It was tough all the way through,” says Ida. “I think in the back of his mind, he knew what he was up against.”

The independent and thoughtful man, who worked as a machinist in Lloydminster, AB, was admitted to the palliative care wing of the Grey Nuns Community Hospital in Edmonton in mid-September.

Ida, a retired nurse, left her home in Medicine Hat and stayed in a nearby Edmonton hotel so she could be with her son every day until his passing on November 4, 2015.

“He was afraid. I did notice that,” she says. “I wanted to be with him, support him and be around at the end. I know he looked forward to me coming every day.”

When Ida mentioned she was staying at a hotel, one of the nurses told her the Canadian Cancer Society could offer financial assistance to help cover some of her accommodation expenses.

Through the Compassionate Financial Assistance Program, the Society provides modest support for an array of unique end-of-life needs, such as travel and accommodation for loved ones, or special home care equipment.

Ida recalled being so overwhelmed with gratitude when she received the funding that she cried.

“Any assistance at all is just so helpful,” she says. “Every little bit helps. It helps keep you going and helps you stay strong.”

Because of your generous donations and gifts of time, nearly 11,600 Albertans and residents of the NWT received the financial, practical and emotional support they needed most throughout their cancer journeys in 2015.

3,500+ received safe and reliable transportation to the treatments they need to survive.

250+ received financial support for unique end-of-life needs.

300+ were given a self-confidence boost by receiving a wig after losing their hair during treatment.

1,300+ received temporary breast prostheses after having a mastectomy.

2,700+ received caring support by phone or online from someone who shared a similar cancer experience.

5,400+ were empowered by the most trusted information they received through the Society’s Cancer Information Service, resources and publications.

Please note some patients benefit from more than one of our programs and services in a given year.
The Lethbridge Hurricanes hosted a month-long men’s cancer awareness campaign in November 2015. “Last season, we had 3 alumni diagnosed with testicular cancer,” says Kathy Hong, game day coordinator. “Dylan Tait and Ty Rimmer both recovered and returned to hockey. Cody Smuk, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer and later lung cancer, lost his battle after a yearlong fight. He was 26 years old. We felt it was very important to raise awareness of cancer because of how the disease has affected our family.”

You’re stopping cancer before it starts

The provincial and territorial governments took critical action last year to reduce the number of Albertans and NWT residents who will be diagnosed with cancer.

Alberta passed legislation that bans minors from accessing tanning beds. WHY THIS MATTERS: Stopping teen use of tanning beds will reduce skin cancer, which, despite being highly preventable, is one of the fastest-rising cancers.

Alberta banned all flavoured tobacco – including menthol – and increased tobacco taxes twice. WHY THIS MATTERS: Both measures will effectively reduce youth tobacco use, which is crucial as most adult tobacco users start smoking before turning 18.

The NWT developed its first cancer strategy. WHY THIS MATTERS: Due to an aging and growing population, cancer cases in the NWT will increase by about 60 per cent by 2030. A cancer strategy is needed to provide adequate care and support for more cancer patients.

The NWT mandated that updated tobacco control legislation be developed. WHY THIS MATTERS: The smoking rate in the NWT is nearly double the national rate. Tobacco control legislation is the most effective way to curb tobacco use and prevent future cancer cases.

“Among our staff and our players, we all know someone who has been personally affected by cancer. This is one small way for us to show our support to our extended family.”

Kathy Hong, Game Day Coordinator, Lethbridge Hurricanes, Western Hockey League
Thank you donors

You have great vision

Thanks to your generous support, we will change cancer from something Canadians fear to something we live well beyond or never get in the first place.

**Breakthrough Champions ($100,000+)**

**Donor**
- Debra and Tom Mauro
- Kolstad Fund at the Calgary Foundation
- WICC Alberta Brain Cancer Research Fund

**Independent Fundraisers**
- Paskal Cattle Cancer Walk-A-Thon

**Milestone Discoverers ($50,000 - $99,999)**

**Donor**
- Claire Tocher
- ATCO Ltd
- Estate of Florence Dilatush
- Husky Energy
- T & E Ventures Inc.

**Independent Fundraisers**
- Cash for the Cure Wainright

**Patrons of Hope ($25,000 - $49,999)**

**Donor**
- ATCO Employees Participating in Communities (EPIC)
- Ken and Sheelagh McCourt
- United Way of The Alberta Capital Region Donor Designation Program

**Independent Fundraisers**
- John Murphy
- Team TELUS Cares
- Encana Cares Foundation
- Birdsell Family and Friends Brain Cancer Research Fund
- United Way of Calgary, Donor Choice Program
- Cardone Family Cancer Fund

**Partners of Hope ($10,000 - $24,999)**

**Donor**
- Estate of Betty Jean Quantz
- Cenovus Energy Inc. Employee Foundation
- Husky Charitable Fund
- Emma Mary Thompson
- Overwaitea Food Group
- Ikaluktutiak Elks 593

**Independent Fundraisers**
- Chris Kowalski and Lisa Squance
- Alberta Milk
- Kal Tire
- Rural Discovery Destination
- Sunbeam Corporation (Canada) Ltd.

**Independent Fundraisers**
- University Of Lethbridge Men’s Hockey Head Shave
- YYC Headshave
- 2015 Albert Dutka Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament
- Cumming School of Medicine
- Steacy Easton Memorial Cancer Classic
- STF Wolves Head Shave/Cut
- Barb Mills Memorial Fund
- Tim Walsh Memorial Dart Tournament
- Red Deer Women’s Classic Golf Tournament
- Fighting Cancer from the Fairway
“Dedicating my time to the Canadian Cancer Society means I can fight all cancers for all the people in my life.”

Peggy Morris, Relay For Life volunteer