

RAISING THE BAR FOR LYMPHOMA PATIENTS

EDUCATION • SUPPORT • ADVOCACY • RESEARCH



LYMPHOMA
CANADA
ANNUAL REPORT
2019



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends and supporters,

A lymphoma diagnosis has a huge impact on the life of a patient and their family members. For someone newly diagnosed, there is a rapid succession of doctors' appointments, discussions about lymphoma subtypes, its staging, the treatment options available and their potential side-effects. All of this can be incredibly overwhelming. Patients often struggle to come to terms with their diagnosis and the unwanted changes imposed upon them.

This is where Lymphoma Canada steps in, to empower patients and their families through education, support, advocacy, and research. We provide programs and services to help lymphoma patients before, during and after their treatment.

In this past year, we have made great strides in advocating for and supporting patients on their journeys with lymphoma. We hosted webinars and educational forums on topics like lymphoma subtype updates and on the latest treatment options available. We hosted a successful national conference. We advocated for equitable access to effective treatments for lymphoma patients and realized important outcomes from the Canadian research programs we funded.

Patients are the focus of everything we do and the reason we exist. Throughout this document are just some of the highlights of our 2019 successes and quotes from actual patients expressing just how appreciative they are of Lymphoma Canada and its resources.

Lymphoma Canada was founded in 1998 and has continued to expand its reach since then thanks to your continued and generous financial support.



Claudio Grossi
Chair, Board of Directors



Antonella Rizza
Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision: Life unlimited by lymphoma.

Our Mission: Empower patients and the lymphoma community through education, support, advocacy, and research.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2019



EDUCATION

Organized our third National Conference with expert speaking faculty about disease and treatment specific information, clinical trials, the latest advances in lymphoma research, practical information about treatment and side effects, as well as provided networking opportunities for members of the lymphoma community.

Facilitated 10 educational forums for patients, caregivers, and families in collaboration with prominent medical professionals and healthcare/ patient groups.

Hosted 10 webinars on topics ranging from Cancer Drug Access in Canada, to Diagnosis and Treatment. Webinars were hosted in both national languages and featured speakers from across the country.

Delivered patient resources in French language to more hospitals and cancer centres than ever before.

SUPPORT

Published the Molecular Genetic Testing infographic to help CLL patients determine what may be their best option for treatment.

Partnered with Wellspring to deliver a monthly lymphoma support group.

Hosted an inaugural Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) event to address disease and support-related topics relevant to this demographic.

Over 6,000 Canadians accessed Lymphoma Canada's online patient resources, including patient manuals, educational sessions, and support groups.

More than 14,000 individuals engaged with our online Know Your Nodes materials. Visitors tested their knowledge of the lymphatic system by taking our online quiz about the signs and symptoms of lymphoma.

I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Hodgkin lymphoma. I underwent six months of chemotherapy at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, and it was there that I was introduced to the **Lymphoma Canada resources**. I scoured the brochures and poured over the survivor stories which inspired me and **prepared me for the battle ahead.**

– Grace Cowley, Hodgkin lymphoma patient



WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2019



ADVOCACY

Prepared pCODR (panCanadian Oncology Drug Review) and INESSS (Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux) submissions, representing the experiences of patients and caregivers. This input provides a vital lens to decision-makers as they determine which therapies to fund.

Participated in the 2019 CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health) Symposium panel on Incorporating Patient Input in CADTH and INESSS Drug Reviews, including ways that patient groups can strengthen their submissions and participation.

Collaborated with other organizations to advocate for molecular genetic testing for CLL patients.

RESEARCH

Giving Tuesday raised critical funds for Lymphoma Canada's research grants. These grants support well-defined research studies that directly affect patient care.

The discovery of distinct DLBCL molecular subtypes based on cell of origin (COO) is redefining the prognosis and treatment of this heterogeneous cancer.

DISEASE AWARENESS

World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is held on September 15 every year and is a day dedicated to raising public awareness of lymphoma cancer. In recognition of this day Lymphoma Canada illuminated 7 monuments across Canada.

The article *Stronger Together: Mark's Journey with CLL*, was published on Macleans.ca in October of 2019. This article provided valuable insight into life with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and was viewed by over 15,000 people. The accompanying video featuring Mark was watched over 40,000 times.

Lymphoma Canada sells purple branded merchandise to raise funds for vital programs and to bring increased awareness of the disease.



Lymphoma Canada exists for people like me. I appreciate that it is focused on **Canadian advocacy** with research and medical connections that keep this type of cancer in the minds and hearts of Canadians. It looks to international discoveries and connects our realities with our unique medical system. **I feel supported and understood by the many programs and professionals that Lymphoma Canada brings to my reality of learning to live with an incurable cancer.**

– Sharon Bede, lymphoma patient



Over the last 10 years, your support and donations have made it possible for Lymphoma Canada to provide free educational materials and patient resource manuals to over 50,000 lymphoma patients. We have held over 100 free education sessions for patients and their families to attend across the country, connecting them with some of Canada's top healthcare professionals.



In 2020, we aim to increase educational opportunities for patients and caregivers across the nation. We are continuing to fund Canadian research studies that have the potential to effect improvements in healthcare, health systems, and health outcomes for lymphoma patients. We also strive to provide decision-makers with objective evidence-based submissions on every emerging lymphoma cancer therapy being assessed for public funding in Canada.

All of this work is not possible without your support.



To support Lymphoma Canada, please visit lymphoma.ca/donate



With CLL you don't go in remission, but you stay positive. Organizations like Lymphoma Canada are raising money to help people like me, and to **one day find a cure.**

– Paul Henderson, *CLL Patient*



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December 31, 2019, audited financial statements are available at lymphoma.ca



LYMPHOMA
CANADA

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