

Ovarian Cancer Canada
Cancer de l'ovaire Canada

2014 Report to the Community

Our mission

Ovarian Cancer Canada provides leadership by:

- Supporting women living with the disease and their families
- Raising awareness among the general public and healthcare professionals
- Funding research to develop early detection techniques, improved treatments and ultimately, a cure

Message from the Chair and CEO



Tammy Brown



Elisabeth Baugh

Since Canada's ovarian cancer movement began in 1997, Ovarian Cancer Canada has blazed new trails that bring us ever closer to overcoming the country's most serious women's cancer. This traction is powered by communities of people who have been touched by the disease, personally or professionally.

Working shoulder-to-shoulder with stakeholders to ensure effective and efficient delivery of our programs and initiatives, Ovarian Cancer Canada identifies community needs then partners with leading organizations to develop and activate strengths and best practices.

This report provides a glimpse into progress to date and the important role people like you have had in our journey.

You are the very reason we are here. Thank you for your continued support.

In hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy Brown'.

Tammy Brown
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth Baugh'.

Elisabeth Baugh
Chief Executive Officer

In Canada today, approximately **17,000 women** are living with ovarian cancer.

They are our mothers, partners, sisters, daughters and dear friends, as well as the perfect strangers among us.

Ovarian cancer is the most serious women's cancer in the country.

Out of over 250 cancer charities coast to coast,
Ovarian Cancer Canada is the **only national organization dedicated to overcoming this disease.**

Community action

Comprised of thousands of dedicated individuals from coast to coast, as well as an active community of survivors and thrivers, a mighty team of volunteers fuels and inspires our work.

This year, because of you:

Awareness about ovarian cancer increased.

Let us count the ways:

- During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in September, volunteers went on the record to generate more than 4.7 million media impressions.
- Hundreds of Knowledge is Power sessions packed with information on the country's most serious women's cancer were hosted in workplaces and community spaces.



Getting involved with Ovarian Cancer Canada in 2007 gave me a way to fight back against this disease. Through the Knowledge is Power presentations, I can make people in my community aware of ovarian cancer and its common signs and symptoms. If I reach just one woman with information that helps her detect this disease -- then I have succeeded in my fight.

Helen Ferris
2013 Peggy Truscott Award of Hope Recipient
Ovarian Cancer Canada Volunteer

- Survivors Teaching Students® brought thousands of future healthcare professionals and scientists closer to understanding the survivor experience of ovarian cancer.

As the three of us shared our stories of living with ovarian cancer, the students moved from thinking about the disease to concentrating on the people being affected. The shift we saw was overwhelming. Each of the students was concentrating on how our experiences applied to them in their future professions.

Janice Peach
Ovarian Cancer Canada Volunteer
On her Survivors Teaching Students® presentation to students of the Faculty of Health Professions at Dalhousie University



Community action

This year, over \$4 million was raised in support of overcoming ovarian cancer.

Some highlights:

- Women and families in 46 communities across Canada joined hands to Walk for HER, bringing the total raised by the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope to \$19.2 million.

Both of us are who we are because of our mom and, by leading up the Walk, we are carrying forward her legacy. The Walk brings together an empowering community of support for women and families living with ovarian cancer. It ensures that every survivor knows they are surrounded by like-minds, entirely devoted to this cause and giving them strength.

Christa Slatnik
Co-Chair, Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope in Winnipeg
Nurse Practitioner, Gynecologic Oncology, Cancer Care Manitoba
Pictured with her twin sister and fellow co-chair, Cindy Sanchez



- Eight hikers trekked through Machu Picchu as part of the Expedition of Hope. They pushed their limits, made friends for life, and raised close to \$45,000.

- LOVE HER, a fashionable evening in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada, took place in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto. The annual event raised over \$300,000 and informed new audiences about the disease.



As part of CIBC's long term commitment to providing hope and support to people living with cancer in our communities, we are proud to once again partner with Ovarian Cancer Canada in presenting LOVE HER. Through our involvement in this cause that's very close to our hearts, we hope to build vital awareness while honouring women in true LOVE HER style.

Monique Giroux
Vice-President, Sponsorship Marketing & Strategy, CIBC

- From sports tournaments to clothing swaps to theatrical productions, numerous community-driven fundraising events were presented by volunteers throughout the country. Each was a labour of love inspired by someone who had been touched by ovarian cancer.

Community action

Research on treatment and on the ovarian cancer journey was enriched.

By providing your insights, you helped:

- Validate the case for improved access to treatment in two patient submissions to the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR).
- Further research into survivorship being conducted by researchers in Canada and Australia.
- Enhance understanding of treatment needs related to ovarian cancer, advancing advocacy for equal access and funding for oral take home drugs.

Thank you for dedicating your time and efforts to making an impact on the course of this disease. Together, we are making a difference.



Milestones

The following list highlights some of the successes shared by Ovarian Cancer Canada and its community of stakeholders.

Research

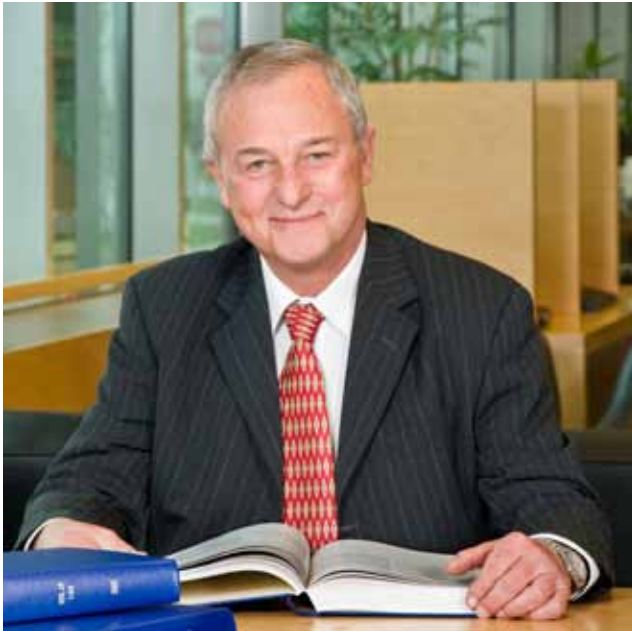
- Tissue banks funded by Ovarian Cancer Canada provided samples that facilitated recent research breakthroughs. Among these is the discovery that ovarian cancer is not one but several different diseases that respond differently to various treatments and have varied outcomes.
- A new partnership with Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI), COEUR, provides research grants that leverage the tissue bank resource. Ovarian Cancer Canada provided funding for six successful applications and TFRI is matching the investment to support additional grants in the next round of submissions.
- Partnering for the first time with the Cancer Research Society (CRS), Ovarian Cancer Canada provided \$180,000 for three grants. CRS is matching the amount to provide year two funding, effectively doubling our investment. This call for projects specific to ovarian cancer resulted in a record number of applications focused on the disease. Currently, seven of 70 grants being funded by CRS address ovarian cancer, comprising an unprecedented 10% of the total pool.

It is exactly this type of work that is needed to take our discoveries from the laboratory to clinical practice. By partnering, Ovarian Cancer Canada is ensuring that they get maximum value from their research investment and I am confident that the Canadian research community will rise to the challenge to bring personalized medicine to ovarian cancer patients.

Dr. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson
Principal Investigator, COEUR
Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Montreal
Scientific Director, Montreal Cancer Institute
Director, FRSQ Cancer Research Network
Head of Cancer Research, Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal



Milestones



UBC Continuing Professional Development, in partnership with Ovarian Cancer Canada, engages family physicians in interactive learning sessions focused on best practices in ovarian cancer care. There is a broad spectrum of possibilities to take into consideration when a woman experiences certain symptoms. Since signs of ovarian cancer are easily confused with those of other conditions, awareness is key to timely diagnoses. From there, we can push at-risk patients through the system and get moving on referrals.

Dr. Philip White
Family Physician
Chair, Medical Director, Family Practice
Oncology Network, BC Cancer Agency

Education and Awareness

- Online and face-to-face accredited programs are in place and successfully reaching hundreds of family doctors each year. Focused on the importance of family history and appropriate referrals, these programs address information gaps that were identified through a needs assessment process.
- Nine more students chose to specialize in gynecological oncology as a result of funding for related electives. Over the course of their careers, these doctors will impact the lives of 27,000 women with various gynecological cancers.



While I've always thought about becoming a gynecologic oncologist, working with another team allowed me to take this a step further by learning a new approach to clinical and surgical practice. My elective created new opportunities to network with professionals in the field who have set strong examples and provided meaningful career guidance.

Lana Saciragic, PGY5
Resident, University of Ottawa
Recipient, Bruce Galloway Trainee Award
On her elective in Halifax

Milestones

Support

- The only online support group for ovarian cancer in the country was established in partnership with CancerChat. Together with Ovarian Cancer Canada symposia and webinars, this resource helps women who do not have access to local support groups know that they are not alone.
- With leadership from Ovarian Cancer Canada, participation in World Ovarian Cancer Day skyrocketed from 28 organizations in 17 countries to 73 organizations in 25 countries over the course of just one year.

Much is left to be done and there is more great work to come.



The meteoric rise of World Ovarian Cancer Day demonstrates the strength of support for international collaboration. The opportunity to work with partners in ovarian cancer across the globe, to share different areas of expertise, to learn from each other's communities, has been incomparable. Target Ovarian Cancer is extremely proud to be a part of this new global movement and we salute Ovarian Cancer Canada for bringing the ovarian cancer community together.

Annwen Jones
Chief Executive, Target Ovarian Cancer, United Kingdom



Organizational achievements

Ovarian Cancer Canada has gained widespread recognition based on its integrity and contribution to the community. Selected highlights are listed below:

- Imagine Canada, the national umbrella for Canada's charities and non-profits, accredited Ovarian Cancer Canada in 2014 under its Standards Program. At the time, only 109 charities out of over 80,000 nationwide had received accreditation based on demonstrated excellence in board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising, staff management and volunteer involvement.
- Charity Intelligence Canada, which researches and analyzes the charitable sector, named Ovarian Cancer Canada a Top Pick in 2012. Our organization was one out of only four health charities to earn this recognition based on the efficiency and measured effectiveness of programs.



Organizational achievements

- The Society of Gynecologic Oncology awarded Ovarian Cancer Canada a Presidential Medal in 2012 in recognition of immense contributions to the field. This was the first time the award was granted to a patient organization.
- Two groups that formerly worked in this area were successfully unified, which led to the 'new' Ovarian Cancer Canada, creating efficiencies and eliminating duplication of efforts. When this change was underway in 2006, there was no legislation in place to support the amalgamation of separate charities.

With a track record for accountability, Ovarian Cancer Canada is committed to furthering efficiencies in order to maximize every dollar entrusted to the organization by donors and sponsors. Funds are carefully invested to ensure the sustainability of the organization and its much needed programs.

For detailed information, please find audited financial statements online at ovariancanada.org or [click here](#).



Hikers on the Expedition of Hope to Machu Picchu. Photo courtesy of colincampbellphoto.ca.

Looking ahead

With our sights set on the future, Ovarian Cancer Canada is focused on accelerating action to achieve sustainable change.

Each year in Canada, 2,600 women are newly diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Working alongside the survivor community, we aim to reach those who are just learning to live with the disease. One of our goals is to provide each of them with *You Are Not Alone*, our guidebook, and to ensure they are made aware of relevant information resources and support programs.



As part of this strategy, [ovariancanada.org](https://www.ovariancanada.org) is being enriched with local content, enabling women to see what is happening in their community in real time. As always, our regional directors will be at the ready with listening ears and up-to-date knowledge on the best available resources.

Taking the message further, we are exploring new ways to bring awareness to the general public. A recent Harris-Decima survey indicated that one in two women cannot correctly identify four symptoms of ovarian cancer. We need to get to HER by ensuring that every Canadian knows why they should care about this important cause.

Looking ahead



*Hikers on the Expedition of Hope to Machu Picchu.
Photo courtesy of colincampbellphoto.ca.*

To do this, Ovarian Cancer Canada is refining public outreach and messaging. A new awareness campaign is being prepared for launch in 2015 to connect with more Canadians than ever before. By informing public concern about the disease, the campaign will facilitate the momentum we need to reach key decision makers.

In preparation, new government relations initiatives are being developed to bring the challenges related to ovarian cancer to the attention of policymakers. This, in turn, will help accelerate action on disease outcomes that have seen limited improvement in the past.

As the only national organization dedicated solely to overcoming ovarian cancer, we are leading the way in changing the course of this disease for good.



Leadership

Ovarian Cancer Canada is governed by a national board of directors comprised of survivors, community champions and leaders in research, healthcare and business. Directors hail from every region of the country, ensuring balanced geographical representation.

Executive Committee

Tammy Brown
Chair, Board of Directors
Chair, HR & Compensation Committee
Audit Partner, KPMG

Kelly Ryan
Treasurer
Chair, Audit & Risk Committee
Senior Manager, KPMG

John Fleming
Vice Chair
Chair, Governance & Nominating Committee
Chartered Director, John Fleming Occasional Consulting

Mark Galloway
Chair, Resource Development Committee
Vice President, Procom
President, NIAD Systems

Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden
Corinne Boyer Chair
Chair, Research Committee
Senior Scientist and Professor, University of Ottawa,
Centre for Cancer Therapeutics

Leadership

Board of Directors

Anne Chase
Retired

Dr. Anne-Marie Mes-Masson
Scientific Director and Professor, Centre de recherche CHUM et
Institut du cancer de Montréal Hôpital Notre-Dame

Brian Wynn
Partner and Lecturer, Gardiner Roberts LLP

Howard Thomas
Consultant

Janet Giroux
Nurse Practitioner, Gynecology Oncology, Kingston General Hospital

Dr. John Robinson
Director and Adjunct Associate Professor, Tom Baker Cancer Centre

Karen Louie
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary,
Harlequin Enterprises Limited

Katherine Orr
Retired

Dr. Laurie Elit
Gynecologic Oncologist, Juravinski Cancer Centre

Mary Anne Davidson
Executive Officer, ACCIONA North America

Paul Pastirik
Business Consultant

Dr. Philip White
Family Physician and Chair, Medical Director,
Family Practice Oncology Network, BC Cancer Agency

Susanne Robertson
Chief Operating Officer, Canadian Museum of Human Rights

Theresa Marie Underhill
Consultant

Verna Magee-Shepherd
Consultant in healthcare and education

Emeritus

Eileen Beadle
Retired

Bruce Galloway
Retired

Valérie Garneau
Vice President, Association des CMDP and
Chief of Emergency Health Services, CSSSTR

Dr. Jack Laidlaw
Consultant Emeritus, Cancer Care Ontario

Three positions on the Board are allocated to members of professional associations, including the Society of Gynecological Oncologists of Canada, Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology, and the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

A dedicated team

The programs and initiatives of Ovarian Cancer Canada are developed and activated by a dedicated team of professionals.

Our work is made possible by the generosity of donors, private funders and corporate sponsors.

Active within your community, we welcome your insights and involvement.

Chief Executive Officer

- Elisabeth Baugh, Chief Executive Officer

Programs and Regions

- Kelly Grover, Vice President, National Programs and Partners
- Marilyn Sapsford, Manager, National Programs
- Monique Beaupré-Lazure, Quebec Regional Director
- Emilie Chiasson, Atlantic Regional Director
- Cailey Crawford, Ontario Regional Director
- Stephanie Gosselin, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Regional Director
- Tracy Kolwich, Pacific Regional Director
- Michelle Pilon, Western Regional Director
- Coralie Desjardins, Quebec Regional Coordinator
- Ashley Laurin, Ontario Regional Coordinator

Marketing and Communications

- Karen Cinq Mars, Vice President, Marketing and Business Innovation
- Janice Chan, Director, Communications
- Jessica Gelberg, Communications Associate, Corporate
- Hilary Lanyon, Marketing and Sponsorship Associate
- Laure Sabatier, Communications Associate, Regional and Events

Community Engagement

- Dianne Sheridan, Vice President, Community Engagement
- Catherine Argiropoulos, Manager, Community Engagement
- Kelly Hagerman, Senior Business Development Associate
- Kathryn Vincent, Senior Business Development Associate
- Erin Cayne, Event Coordinator

Development Services

- John Hazelwood, Director, Development Services
- Jessie Benjamin, Donor Accounts Coordinator

Finance

- Hoda Brooke, Director, Finance
- Delphin Shamamba, Accounting Manager
- Kumari Gedara, Accounting Assistant

Operations and Human Resources

- Roxana Predoi, Director, HR and Operations
- Faiza Ahmed, Administrative Coordinator

Philanthropy

- Denyse Campeau, National Director, Philanthropy

Connect with us

For further information or to donate, simply call or click.

Find out more by visiting ovariancanada.org, while there you may also wish to subscribe to *Seeds of Hope*, a monthly e-newsletter from Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Go social



OvarianCancerCanada



@OvarianCanada

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