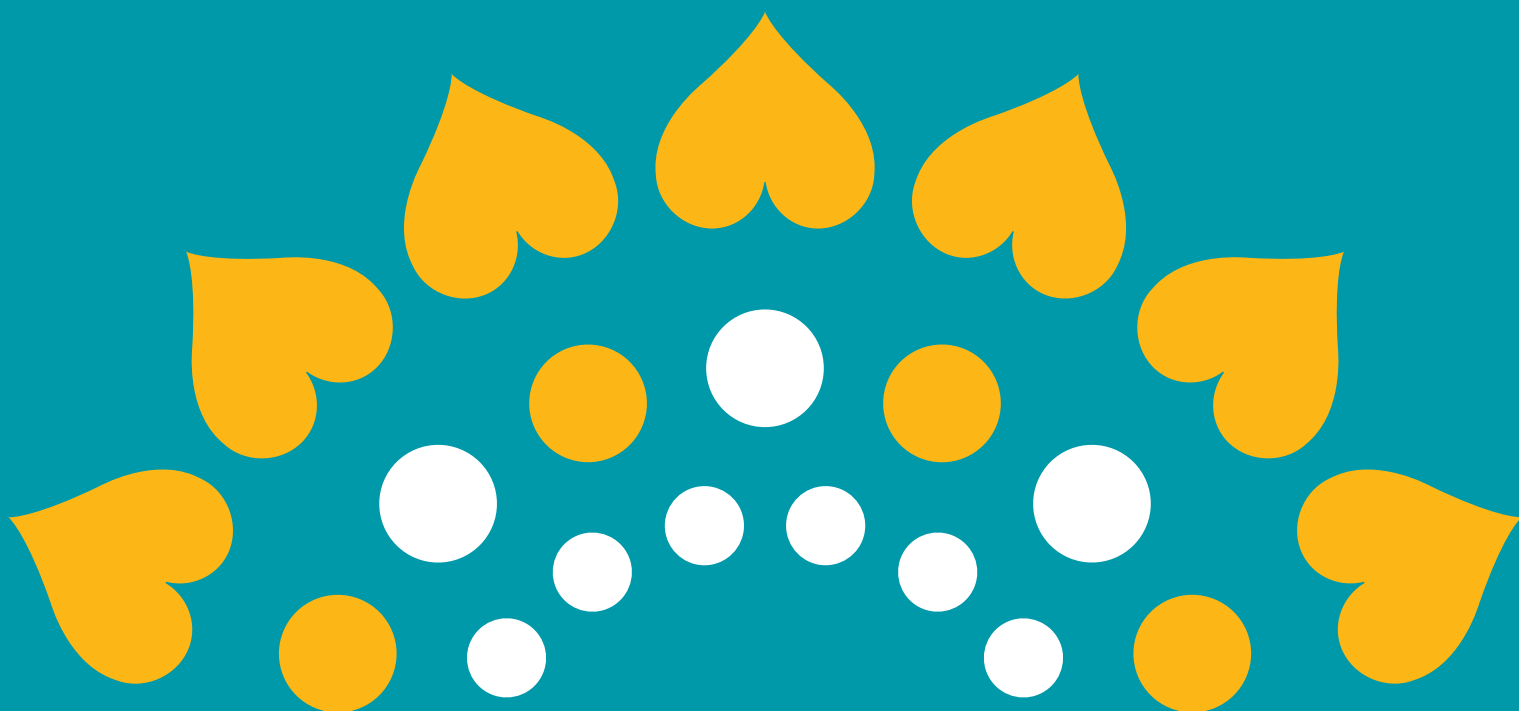




Ovarian Cancer Canada
Cancer de l'ovaire Canada

Report to the Community: 2019 – 2020

United and Stronger, Together



“I am not alone. We are not alone. ... Ovarian Cancer Canada has been such an integral part of my journey. The support I’ve received personally from the team there, and the programs and resources they provide for women like me, has been invaluable. It felt so natural for me to give something back!”



*~ **Cécile Hryhorczuk** from **Montreal, Quebec**, reflecting on her 2019 cycle across Canada in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada. Cécile was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2015 and continues to be an active and outspoken advocate for change. She is a true champion and support to her fellow ‘teal sisters’ and both inspires and is inspired by them in her personal mission to help save women’s lives.*

Mission: Ovarian Cancer Canada champions the health and wellbeing of women with ovarian cancer and others at risk of this disease while advancing research to save lives.



A Message from our Chair and CEO

So much has happened since our last report to you – not just within our organization and community – but around the world. In particular, the **COVID-19** pandemic has altered our lives to varying degrees and has likely changed the ways we live, work, and play, now and well into the future. It's been a time of change and challenge for sure, and not without some uncertainty.

That is all the more reason why we couldn't be prouder of this community for demonstrating such determination, such strength, and such resilience as we've faced change and challenges together!

Together, we've covered significant ground this past year, including:

- Advancing and accelerating ovarian cancer research (while also growing a research investment of **\$10 million to \$14 million and counting**);
- Laying the foundation for a comprehensive audit of ovarian cancer treatment and care across Canada, with a goal to ensure access to optimal treatments for women with the disease; and
- Expanding our reach and connection to women living with a diagnosis across Canada by providing them with support, encouragement and information – through surveys, social media outreach, webinars, workshops, support guides, and online forums.

As with many organizations and health charities, Ovarian Cancer Canada has been impacted by **COVID-19**, but our mission and mandate have not stopped and must continue.

We've now transitioned to more of a virtual team environment but, as usual, we have local staff and support programs in regions across the country and our work continues. Central to that work is connecting one-on-one with women who have been diagnosed, to provide resources and support as they navigate their personal experiences with the disease.

It's been inspiring to see the community embrace our new reality, continuing to support this cause through "virtual" and "socially distant" events, and through their own personal fundraising efforts. This is so very much appreciated and will be important for us going forward.

There are now as many as **3,100 women** who will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year, with survival rates still not having improved significantly for decades. We are privileged and honoured to serve this community while at the same time ever mindful of our mandate as ***the only national charity delivering specific, targeted, and urgent focus on this disease and dedicated to overcoming ovarian cancer.***

Ovarian Cancer Canada is on an exciting trajectory in the areas of research, improving care, and supporting women and families affected by this disease. Let's continue to work together and to build on our solid track record of success – no matter what change or challenge may come our way.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire staff team at Ovarian Cancer Canada, thank you for your partnership, collaboration and unwavering support. Happy reading!

Mark Galloway, Chair of the Board
Elisabeth Baugh, Chief Executive Officer

Advancing Ovarian Cancer Research

We are making waves in ovarian cancer research! Last year, and as a result of a strong push from this community, we secured a **\$10 million federal investment** to advance ovarian cancer research. An investment that we've since grown to **\$14 million** and counting this year with additional funding of **\$2 million** from a partner organization, named **IRICoR**, and two provinces – **Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan** – that each committed **\$1 million** to the federal investment!

While investing in research has always been a leading priority for us, we've named and designated this specific investment as the **OvCAN** research initiative, with key targets and deliverables over a five-year period. **OvCAN** is founded on three key priority areas with one aim: To improve the outcomes for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Those three priority areas are:

1

Developing better experimental models that more closely emulate the major types of ovarian cancer, to bridge the gap between discovery and testing of new treatments;

2

Identifying the most promising new treatment strategies in pre-clinical studies, given that women diagnosed have few treatment options available to them; and

3

Developing more specific, personalized medicine and treatment options for women, given the various sub-types of ovarian cancer that women will experience.

The key targets and deliverables include:

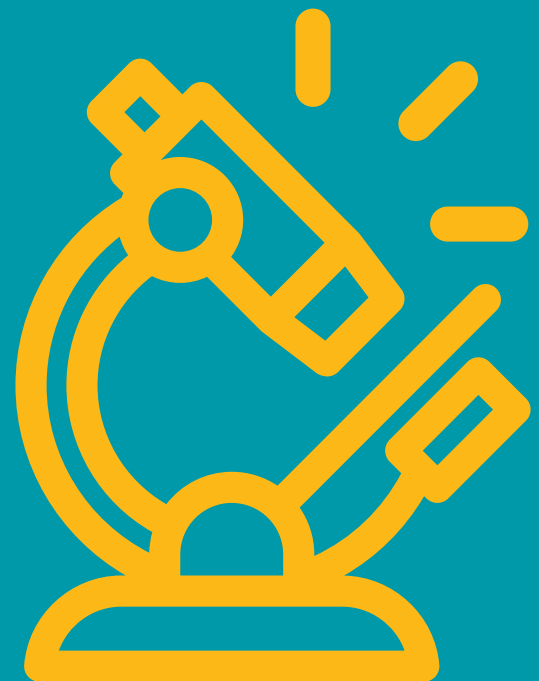
- Establishing a national repository of the best ovarian cancer research models across the country and making these available to all Canadian scientists studying this disease;
- Identifying and prioritizing the development of *up to 10 of the most promising new treatments*, to be tested using these models;
- Collaborating with leading clinical investigators across the country to run up to *five early-phase clinical trials* to bring the best new treatments to women living with ovarian cancer. These trials will integrate the collection of bio-specimens throughout women's treatments and state-of-the-art molecular techniques to enrich knowledge gained through each study;
- Identifying and developing a team of trained patient partners who can bring their lived experience and insight to the research table; and
- Supporting research that builds on Canadian science, showcasing our research community and leadership on the global stage, while at the same time working for the direct benefit of Canadian women and their families.

In this first year of the initiative, we:

- Launched inaugural meetings with **OvCAN's** newly established Governing Council, consisting of leading scientists, researchers, clinicians, patient advocates and other partners across the country;
- Aligned to the first priority area, led a nation-wide survey which led to the establishment of three working groups with expertise in experimental model development;
- Renewed and established partnerships with other leading cancer organizations, which will create opportunities for sharing of best practices and co-funded ovarian cancer projects;
- Led calls and meetings with scientists across the country and facilitated the open sharing of information about research models available and group consensus on priorities for funding;
- Integrated information and findings from biobanks and compiled information on research models from Canadian labs, making them available to the ovarian cancer research community; and
- Distributed the first installments of funding to **launch four new clinical trials**. (We look forward to sharing more about these clinical trials in our **2020 – 2021 Report to the Community!**)

It has been especially exciting to fully engage and work in partnership with ovarian cancer patients on this initiative. Their perspectives and experiences must always inform our research efforts. This year we recruited 15 patients to **OvCAN's** patient team. An introductory webinar for patients was held in January 2020, followed by two additional webinars in March 2020.

A survey on perception and experience with patient involvement in research was also circulated to the Canadian ovarian cancer research community in February 2020, followed by a series of webinars for researchers in March 2020.



Unlocking Keys to Disease Prevention

Prevention of ovarian cancer is also connected to our work in advancing research and improving outcomes of this disease.

About 20-25% of ovarian cancer cases can be attributed to an inherited predisposition to the disease. While all women have some risk of developing the disease – whether or not there is a history of ovarian or breast cancer in the family – identifying those at risk and ensuring they are aware of, and able to access, preventive or risk-reducing strategies and surgeries will have the greatest impact on ovarian cancer outcomes. This translates into saving the lives of approximately 600 women each year!

It is vital that we continue to increase funding for research and prevention-related initiatives to further accelerate progress against ovarian cancer.

There is much work still to cover on this initiative, but we did lay some solid foundation this past year, notably, surveying **three populations** related to prevention:

- Genetic counsellors;
- Gynecologic surgeons who perform risk-reducing surgery for those with **BRCA** and other genetic mutations; and
- Patients who had completed risk-reducing surgery for a **BRCA-1** or **BRCA-2** mutation.

From each of these three population vantage points, the surveys explored a multitude of topics including referral processes and criteria for testing; wait times for testing; current processes, guidelines, and protocols related to risk-reducing surgeries and the funding of those surgeries in provinces. The survey included a particular focus on patients' personal experiences throughout every stage of their risk-reducing surgery – how they were informed, engaged, treated, cared for, and their overall perceptions and feelings about their surgeries.

We met the **two-fold objective** of this survey:

- 1 To increase our understanding of policies and practices related to genetic counselling, testing and risk-reducing surgeries across Canada to better support those coming to us for information; and
- 2 To begin the work of finding systemic gaps and challenges within Canada's genetic testing and prevention landscape to identify possible areas for advocacy.

Overall, the genetic counsellors and gynecologic surgeons revealed that many variations exist across centres and regions in terms of access and efficiency. At the same time, patients reported that they had unmet needs in terms of information they wish they had been given at certain steps in their journey.

Information women wished had been better explained included: psycho-social impacts of genetic testing; how to communicate testing results to family members; side effects and complications of surgery; available options for hormonal treatments following surgery; and available options for reducing impact on bone and/or cardiovascular health.

The work has now begun in using the findings from these surveys to further develop and build on Ovarian Cancer Canada's prevention programming.



Spotlight: Meet the 2019 Recipient of the Peggy Truscott Award

The Peggy Truscott Award of Hope celebrates and acknowledges the dedication of individuals or groups who volunteer to support the mission of Ovarian Cancer Canada. Named after **Peggy Truscott**, a powerhouse volunteer and founder of **The Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope**, the award recognizes involvement, contributions and/or achievements within the home community of the recipients.

In 2019, we were pleased to honour **Winnipeg, Manitoba's Tamara Peabody Romanovych** with this award!

"Peggy and I would have made great teammates. And we still have work to do!" said Tamara while accepting the 2019 Peggy Truscott Award at **The Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope** in **Winnipeg**.

Tamara was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2015. We've come to know her as an energetic, non-stop supporter and mobilizer who has given so much of her time, energy, and support to other women diagnosed with this disease.

Tamara has served on Walk committees; organized the "survivors' area" and memorial tables at Walk events; organized outreach meetings, brunches, and other events for women living with the disease; and also organized "goodie bags" for women attending research conferences.

She has facilitated the sharing of information via webinars and chat groups for women who have been diagnosed; hosted and led women on tours of research centres; and has been an active and contributing member to Ovarian Cancer Canada's online community **OVdialogue** since its beginning.



From left to right:
Cindy Sanchez, co-chair of the Walk in Winnipeg, Mapy Villaudy, Vice President of Marketing, Communications and Fund Development, Tamara Peabody Romanovych, and Christa Slatnik, co-chair of the Walk in Winnipeg

In 2019, Tamara welcomed and encouraged **Cécile Hryhorczuk**, herself living with ovarian cancer, as she passed through Winnipeg during her bike ride across Canada to raise funds and awareness for the disease.

"I just want women to find the support they need, to have the information they need, when they need it. There is lots of support for them out there, and a strong network of our 'teal sisters' across the country they can meet online," she says. "I want to bring people together because we are better, together."

We are so thankful to Tamara for carrying forward the legacy of support and community that Peggy started and that continues to be an inspiration.



Did You Know?

For 17 years, Ovarian Cancer Canada has awarded this honour to one stellar and inspiring recipient, like Tamara, each year – and it's always been a tough choice to honour just one! In 2020 we embraced change, and expanded the award to recognize not one, but five, individuals or groups from regions across Canada. We were pleased to announce the 2020 winners earlier this year and will spotlight them again in our **2020 – 2021 Report to the Community**. Can't wait that long? Then read more about our 2020 award recipients at **ovariancanada.org**.



Providing Meaningful Support, Advocacy – and Disease Information

Always Something to Talk About @ OVdialogue

“I am not alone.” That is consistently what so many women express and tell us they appreciate most about their connection to Ovarian Cancer Canada and this community. Supporting Canadians affected by ovarian cancer, connecting them to relevant, credible, and evidence-based disease information from leading clinicians, scientists, and researchers in Canada, and from around the world, is what we do. Facilitating platforms, like **OVdialogue**, and other ways for people to connect with and encourage each other is central to what we do as well.

While it’s still a fairly new platform, we’re excited to report that **OVdialogue** continues to grow, evolve and reach women living with ovarian cancer across Canada – in both official languages. We now have close to 800 members and have seen a 70% growth in membership from our French-language community, in correlation with the hiring of a French-language moderator. This year we also launched a new volunteer program within the platform called, Community Champions. Fourteen members of **OVdialogue** (including French-speaking and English-speaking members) have been recruited and trained to become active mentors, welcoming new members and actively participating in discussions. Women across Canada continue to be grateful to have this interaction and connection to each other.

“ Although I have been connected to this site for a time now, I haven’t really made too many comments until today! My story is I got sick ... and was hospitalized for 10 days... After my release there were further tests to be done and I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer - quite a shock I can tell you... genetic testing was positive so now my sister will have the test too... To all the amazing women out there, thanks for ‘listening’ and I hope that we can all Stay Strong for Each Other. ”

“ Thank you so much for reaching out and sharing your story. It gives me hope. I’m starting chemo on Thursday and am infinitely nervous... It makes a huge difference to connect with women who have been or are going through this. ”

“ Thanks for the welcome. I’m thrilled to have found this group of Teal Sisters. My first treatment on Thursday feels more manageable already after hearing from several people in this group. ”

“ Thanks for the welcome and excellent advice. I’m really glad I found this group and that I introduced myself today... your tip about making full use of the oncology team is helpful... Thanks so much for the positivity and support for... (first chemo). ”

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Messages from participants in Ovarian Cancer Canada’s online forum, **OVdialogue**. **OVdialogue** is an active and vibrant community where people with ovarian cancer can connect with each other to share information and experiences with the disease as well as provide support and encouragement to each other. Quotes have been provided here with permission by the participants and under condition of anonymity.



## Connecting, Supporting and Collaborating in Every Way Possible

Your donations are having an impact across the country, reaching directly into people's lives. Here's how:

- This past year we delivered English and French **Ovarian Cancer 101** webinars as part of our ongoing and **national** webinar series.
- We held a "survivor education day" (in November 2019) in **Regina, Saskatchewan** featuring ovarian cancer researchers, clinicians, and social workers. Two women living with ovarian cancer shared about their experiences with mental health and the important role of social workers in their journey.
- We facilitated support groups for women in **Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia; Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and Regina and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.**
- In **Ontario**, we collaborated with Dr. Jim Petrik to deliver an ovarian cancer research presentation in May 2019, and in September 2019 we held two additional events in the province – an ovarian cancer research presentation with Dr. Trevor Shepherd and an education symposium in partnership with the London Cancer Centre in London, Ontario.
- In **Quebec**, we fostered partnerships and collaboration with local and national cancer organizations, and the scientific-medical community, as part of building a stronger community and network to support women in that region as well as French-speaking communities across Canada. While we have been facilitating webinars and other virtual events across the country in response to the pandemic, we covered new territory with our first-ever virtual support group meeting in Quebec this year. We also collaborated with patients, Dr. Diane Provencher, and other medical professionals to provide a COVID-19 webinar, specifically for ovarian cancer patients (in June 2020).
- In **Atlantic Canada**, we connected women with information from an ovarian cancer study by the **Nova Scotia Health Authority** and also connected the Authority with ovarian cancer patients for input into the province's palliative care initiatives.
- In October 2020, we held our first-ever virtual **National Symposium: A Weekend of Wellness, Knowledge, Support and Connection**. At the symposium, our community heard from Canada's top researchers, health care professionals and other experts about all aspects of ovarian cancer including treatment, wellness, and survivorship. There was also opportunity to meet and share with other women living with ovarian cancer from across the country. We look forward to sharing more details in our **2020 – 2021 Report to the Community**.



## Partnering with Provincial Governments to Save Lives

We are so fortunate to have local volunteers and champions join with us in advocacy efforts, not only at the national level, but also at the provincial level to advance funding for research and also to improve care for women with, or at risk of, ovarian cancer. Our regional staff and community advocates saw the fruits of their collective labour this year when the provinces of **Nova Scotia** and **Saskatchewan** committed **\$1 million each** to add to the federal investment we secured in 2019.

“I’m amazed and I’m grateful,” said **Joanne Rivest**, a resident of **Halifax, Nova Scotia** who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2013. “I know research and progress takes a significant amount of money and time. I am hopeful for my future, but more hopeful for the futures of women who will be diagnosed with the disease in months or years to come and whose lives will be impacted by this funding.”

The commitment from **Saskatchewan** builds on existing health care systems and programs in the province that have been put in place to address ovarian cancer, including taking concrete steps to address a critical shortage of gynecologic oncologists, and steadily growing the number of doctors available to support and treat women affected by the disease.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and partnership with **Halifax’s Dalhousie University; Cancer Care Nova Scotia; Saskatchewan Cancer Agency**; and other cancer leaders in these two provinces. Together we will leverage investments in the most effective way, benefitting women not only in these provinces and across Canada, but ultimately women affected by this disease around the world.



### Did You Know?

#### PARP Inhibitors Add Hope and Treatment Options

We are so grateful to patients who participate in Ovarian Cancer Canada surveys so we can prepare submissions to **pCODR (pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review)** and **INESSS (Institut national d’excellence en santé et services sociaux)** when new treatments are being considered for public funding. Bringing patient voices to these deliberations is an important way that we advocate for improved access to ovarian cancer treatment in Canada.

We were pleased to share news that both **pCODR** and **INESSS** took our patient input seriously and recommended funding “Lynparza” in the first-line treatment setting (for patients who have tested positive for a BRCA mutation among other conditions). The next steps in the process are for the **pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA)** to negotiate a price with the manufacturer, **AstraZeneca**, and for provinces and territories to add the drug to their formularies.

We also continued our advocacy on other drug and treatment access for women, including “Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase” or PARP inhibitors for those without a BRCA mutation.

PARP inhibitors are a new family of drugs being used in the treatment of ovarian cancer. This kind of cancer treatment has a different focus than something like immunotherapy that targets the body’s immune system. PARP is a protein inside cells that helps repair damage to the cell DNA. If the cell can repair itself, it will survive and grow. If the cell cannot repair itself, it will die. So, the PARP “inhibitor” stops a cancer cell from repairing its DNA which causes cell death and prevents tumour growth.

[Read more in this comprehensive article about PARP inhibitors we published this past year.](#) Follow us at **[ovariancanada.org](https://ovariancanada.org)** or on social media for additional drug and treatment updates coming over the next few months.

# Paving the Way for Best Care

Supporting women to live fuller, better, and longer lives involves more than a focus on advancing ovarian cancer research and disease prevention. We also need a healthcare system that provides the best care to women living with the disease.

This year we continued our work to lead a comprehensive audit of ovarian cancer treatment and care across Canada, with a goal to ensure access to optimal treatments for women with this disease. The focus of the audit is to collect data on ovarian cancer incidence, prevalence, staging, and mortality that will be captured in an atlas of ovarian cancer across the country. In collaboration with key partners, we will map meaningful treatment patterns against this data to help identify gaps and opportunities in the system and provide a roadmap for improvements in the standard of care. Taking an evidence-based view, it will also help us to identify healthcare priorities, mobilize stakeholders, and advocate for changes to healthcare policies and practice.

Our current focus includes securing and engaging critical partners (including the **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer** and **The Society of Gynecologic Oncology of Canada**), stakeholders, and experts needed to drive this complex initiative, while also ensuring funding to launch and sustain its critical work.

Every woman with ovarian cancer deserves equitable access to optimal care and treatment regardless of where they live in Canada and to that end, in September 2020, we launched **The Every Woman Study: Canadian Edition**. In 2018, the **World Ovarian Cancer Coalition** launched the global version of this questionnaire to help highlight the challenges facing women with ovarian cancer and those who care for them, and the opportunities that exist to make progress.



## A Global Mindset: A Visit with the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition

We are privileged to be a part of a global network of leaders working to advance progress on ovarian cancer. In January 2020, Ovarian Cancer Canada was delighted to host planning and strategy sessions with fellow members of the **World Ovarian Cancer Coalition** (WOCC). It was inspiring to see these committed leaders come together to share insights and lessons learned from their regions and nations, and to ensure ovarian cancer remains a top priority on the global health agenda.



### **From left to right:**

*Tammy Brown, Partner, KPMG (Toronto, Canada); Robin Cohen, CEO of The Sandy Rollman Ovarian Cancer Foundation (Philadelphia, USA) and Vice Chair, Board, Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (New York, USA); Eva Schumacher-Wulf, Journalist, Advocate, and Founder of Mamma Mia Magazine (Frankfurt, Germany); Elisabeth Baugh, Founding Chair, WOCC, and CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada (Toronto, Canada); Jane Hill, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Australia (Melbourne, Australia); Clara MacKay, Executive Director, WOCC (Lunenburg, Canada); and Annwen Jones, CEO, Target Ovarian Cancer (London, UK).*



# So Many Ways That You Have Made a Difference!

What a tenacious, vibrant, creative, and generous community we have driving our important work and making change possible! We are inspired and in awe of how this community can be counted on each year – through hurricanes, pandemics, and every challenge in between – to join us in raising needed profile and funds for our mission.

Here are **just a few examples** of the many ways you've stepped up and out to make a difference. We are so very grateful – **thank you!**

## World Ovarian Cancer Day 2019

While working to advance progress on ovarian cancer is our focus year-round, **World Ovarian Cancer Day** (held annually on May 8) provides a special moment and opportunity to remember we're part of an active, global movement for change on this disease. Coming off the heels of securing a first-ever funding commitment of \$10 million from the Canadian Government for ovarian cancer research, this occasion provided the opportunity to reflect on where we've come as a movement and how much further we need to go. On this day we saw important, borderless sharing and conversation across many platforms. We had open dialogue and drew spotlight on a disease that affects 600,000 women worldwide. But wait – there was more! For the first time, we set our sights on a goal to raise **\$25,000** leading up to and on that day. Guess what – with your support we smashed it! – raising over **\$30,000!**



Corrine Gillespie and her Walk team, Corinne's Crew





Joanne Rivest, Walk participant

## The Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope in 2019

The Walk rallied thousands of community members to help save women's lives. Extreme weather in some parts of the country due to Hurricane Dorian forced the first-ever cancellations of the Walk in **Halifax, Nova Scotia** and **Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**. Still, women and families affected by this disease persevered and formed a sea of teal from coast-to-coast. Teal sisters in regions where the Walk was cancelled waited for the skies to clear, gathered their teams together, and donned their teal with pride, while donations continued to pour in, despite the hurricane! Other Walk events across the country – that included everything from dance-offs, to beard-shaves, line-dancing and more – delighted crowds of all sizes. All in all, the 2019 Walk of Hope raised over **\$1.9 million!** Wow!



Andrea Bodchon, Walk participant and her granddaughter



"Every year I walk. I walk because I am still here. I walk for my granddaughter, my sister, my friends, our mothers and all women. In 2017, I was in treatment for the third time and wore my teal wig. This year, in remission, my granddaughter wore my teal wig... I know the importance of this event. When I connect with other women, especially those newly diagnosed, I share my story in hopes that it will help them."

~**Andrea Bodchon, Windsor, Ontario**



## Getting a Little Fancy for the Cause – 2019 LOVE HER and THE LADY BALL Galas

The **LOVE HER Vancouver** event (April 4, 2019) raised over **\$235,000** in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada - thanks to our amazing supporters on the West Coast.

The event also honoured the 2019 recipients of **The Virginia Greene Award** – cousins **Lisa Konishi and Christine Coletta**, who have experienced the losses of multiple women in their family to ovarian cancer. Named after the late Virginia Greene, a leading British Columbia businesswoman and ovarian cancer advocate, the award recognizes outstanding contributions that have led to the advancement of knowledge and research pertaining to ovarian cancer. "Our family realizes the dramatic advances that research has led to and that more funding can make a big difference for generations to come, so we are pleased to be able to support this worthy cause financially and to raise awareness," said Christine while accepting the award.

Swinging further east, and for the first time ever, **THE LADY BALL** touched down in **Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island**, on May 30, 2019. The event featured food, hilarious entertainment, a silent auction, and a fashion show; raising over **\$75,000** to help women diagnosed with ovarian cancer and all those at risk of the disease. What an accomplishment!

## Adding a Sporty Spin to Fundraising

We know people love to join the Walk of Hope, but it turns out this community likes to get active and sporty for a good cause in other ways as well! Your support through community events this year raised over **\$525,000**. Not all community events were sports-themed, but we're proud to share a few highlights of those here.

### The Sue Deacon Memorial Cup

**The Sue Deacon Memorial Cup** is a hockey tournament created to spread awareness and raise funds for research on ovarian cancer. It's inspired by **Sue Deacon**, who was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2002 and passed away from the disease in 2013. She was given more than 11 years of life after her diagnosis and determined to live life to the fullest, making the most of the time she had. This included doing something she loved with a passion – playing hockey. Sue's family and friends keep her memory and legacy alive through this fun and competitive annual hockey tournament which has to date raised **over \$500,000** for **The Sue Deacon Ovarian Cancer Research Fund**. In April 2019, at **Toronto's** Bill Bolton Arena, over 100 players in eight teams laced up their skates for the cause, raising more than **\$88,400**. They shot – and scored big for ovarian cancer research!



Left to right  
Zoey Deacon, Chris McMurtry, Michael Deacon and  
Callie Deacon

### Walkin' and Runnin' in Beau's 5K

When **Ashley Courtois (Cowan)** was diagnosed with the disease in 2015, her family and friends teamed up with Beau's Brewery Co. to honour her love of running. Ashley passed away in 2018, but the **Beau's 5K Run for Ovarian Cancer Canada** has grown remarkably since then and her family and the community of **Vankleek Hill, Ontario** continue to hold this event in her memory. The Beau's 5k took place in July 2019, **raising \$50,000** and exceeding their goal of \$40,000. To date, the run has raised more than **\$115,000**. Amazing!



## What a Way to Ride

**Joan Kathleen Thompson** and **Cécile Hryhorczuk** are serious about changing outcomes of ovarian cancer – and they cycled their way across Canada to prove it! Joan lost her sister **Sheila Rae Trautman**, aged 59, in November 2018, almost four years after she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Sheila was an athlete, coach, mother, and educational assistant who modelled the values of perseverance and service. Her sister Joan is now living those values and cycled across from her home in Vancouver straight through to Halifax to raise profile and funds – more than **\$5,000** – for this cause.



Joan Kathleen Thompson

Another cyclist and fitness buff, Cécile Hryhorczuk rode her bike across Canada (from Vancouver to Montreal) with an initial goal to raise \$10,000 – but ended up raising **close to \$20,000** instead! She also wanted to prove that there can be life after an ovarian cancer diagnosis: “I see other women in treatment and I know I am lucky to be able to set off on this ride. I am not only doing this for me - I am doing this for all of us,” she said at the time. Her determination was contagious and spread across our community. We were so inspired to follow her incredible journey.

Many thanks to the friends and family of Sue and Ashley, and also to Joan, Cécile and so many of you who took on wildly ambitious and challenging personal fundraising efforts to support Ovarian Cancer Canada this past year.

## United and Strong – Even While We’re Apart

At the time of writing for this report, we acknowledge the COVID-19 pandemic has meant having to postpone, shift and pivot on a number of our community and fundraising events in 2020. This came with challenges but also some amazing new opportunities. We didn’t know all of what to expect but we trusted this community to show up – as it always does.

It’s amazing what we accomplished together between the Spring and Fall of 2020 – even though the pandemic kept us physically apart. You joined us, supported us, and connected with people across the country in such meaningful and powerful ways and through a host of first-ever virtual events and campaigns – including **2020 World Ovarian Cancer Day; The 2020 Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope: The Virtual Edition; THE LADY BALL 2.0** and our **National Symposium**. You continued to help us raise needed funds during a complex time, but more importantly, you proved once again that our community is united, strong, and focused on our mission to save lives.

We look forward to sharing more about what we accomplished together during this unprecedented time in our **2020 – 2021 Report to the Community**. In the meantime, visit us online at **ovariancanada.org** or follow us on social media to get the latest updates.

**There really is no stopping this community. You make so much possible and you are saving lives – thank you.**

# STRATEGIC PLAN

Our strategic plan continues to guide our work and keeps us on track as we deliver on our mission each day, with your generous support.



Every donation counts as, together, and with your support, we work to change outcomes and overcome ovarian cancer.



## Let Us Count the Ways...

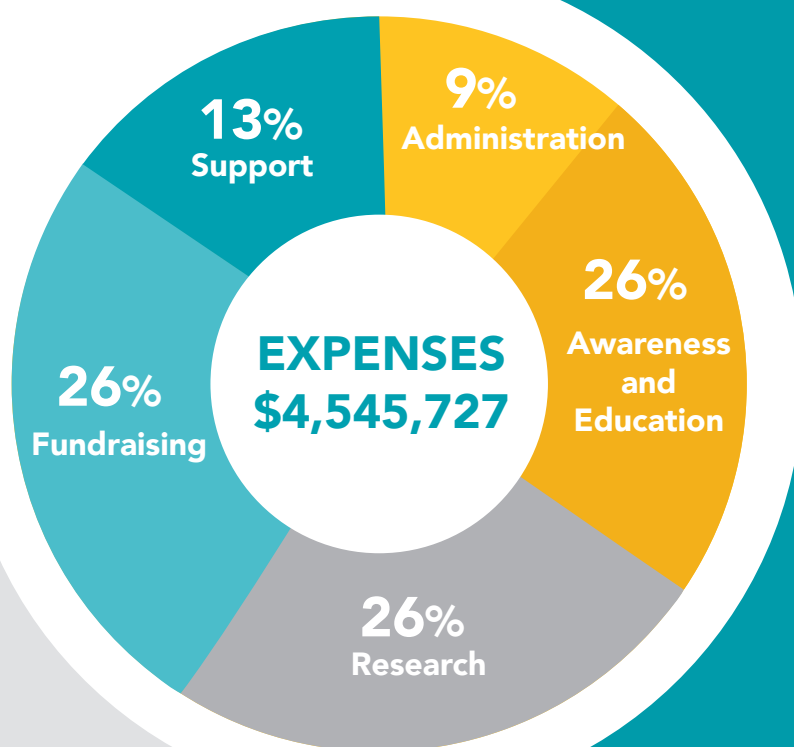
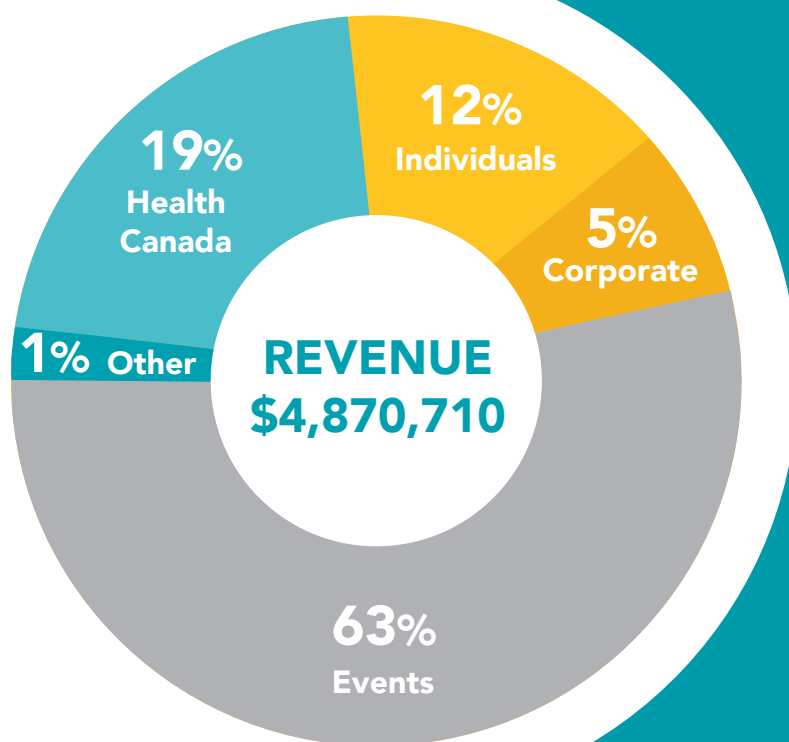
These numbers tell a beautiful story of commitment and generosity from coast-to-coast!

**23,623** people donated to Ovarian Cancer Canada this past year

**719** organizations and businesses sponsored events and demonstrated their support

**7,000+** people participated in **The 2019 Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope**

**65** community events and fundraisers were held in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada



During fiscal 2019-2020, Ovarian Cancer Canada entered into a contribution agreement with Health Canada related to the Health Care Policy Contribution Program. In the fiscal 2019-2020, \$939,552 was distributed and included in Research.



The Standards Programs Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada used under licence by Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Our accreditation demonstrates to our valued donors our commitment to operate at the highest level of transparency and accountability, and that they can be assured that their gifts are well-stewarded for the greatest impact.

# Board of Directors

## (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)

Comprised of people who have been impacted by the disease, community champions, and leaders in research, healthcare and business, the Board of Directors provides governance that supports Ovarian Cancer Canada in achieving its mission.

### Executive Committee

**Mark Galloway**

Chair  
Toronto, ON

**Erin Barrett**

Vice Chair and Chair, Governance Committee  
Vancouver, BC

**Theresa Marie Underhill**

Past Chair and Governance Committee  
Halifax, NS

**Kelly Ryan-Parker**

Treasurer and Chair, Audit Committee  
Toronto, ON

**Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden**

Chair, Research Committee  
Ottawa, ON

**Kelly-Jo Wellings**

Toronto, ON

### Directors

**Catherine Asselin**

Montreal, QC

**Michel Brunet**

Montreal, QC

**Deb Clark**

Regina, SK

**John Fleming**

Governance Committee  
Oakville, ON

**Janet Giroux**

Representative, Canadian Association of  
Nurses in Oncology  
Kingston, ON

**Dr. Walter H. Gotlieb**

Representative, Society of Gynecologic  
Oncology of Canada  
Montreal, QC

**Karen Greve Young**

Toronto, ON

**Dr. Verna Magee Shepherd**

Governance Committee  
Vancouver, BC

**Ken Mullen**

Audit Committee  
Calgary, Alberta

**Laura Nelson**

Vancouver, BC

**Dave Power**

Audit Committee  
Toronto, ON

**Susanne Robertson**

Audit Committee  
Winnipeg, MB

**Marina Whitten**

St. John's, NL

**Emeritus**

**Eileen Beadle**, Deep Bay, BC

**Tammy Brown**, Toronto, ON

**Anne Chase**, Regina, SK

**Bruce Galloway**, Oakville, ON

**Dr. Valérie Garneau**, Trois Rivières, QC





## Our Team

*Dedicated to seeing women live fuller,  
better, longer lives*

**Elisabeth Baugh, Chief Executive Officer**

### *Programs and Regions*

**Cailey Crawford**

Vice President of Programs and Policy

**Emilie Chiasson**

Regional Director, New Brunswick,  
Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and  
Newfoundland and Labrador

**Valérie Dinh**

Regional Manager, Quebec

**Stephanie Gosselin**

Regional Director, Manitoba and  
Saskatchewan

**Tracy Kolwich**

Regional Director, British Columbia, Alberta,  
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

**Alicia Tone**

OvCAN Project Manager and Scientific  
Advisor

### *Finance and Administration*

**Lise Johnston**

Vice President of Finance

**Raj Aiyer**

Database Administrator

**Lily Ayelazuno**

Associate, Donor Services and Administration  
and Executive Assistant to the CEO

**Kamarah Francis**

Business Manager

**Delphin Shamamba**

Accounting Manager

### *Marketing, Communications, and Fund Development*

**Mapy Villaudy**

Vice President of Marketing, Communications  
and Fund Development

**Janice Chan**

Director of Marketing and Communications

**Julie De Liberato**

Marketing and Communications Manager

**Irma Deacon**

Senior Development Manager

**Tara Frotten**

Community Engagement and Events Manager

**Todd Harrison**

Website Specialist

**Ashley Law**

Community Engagement Associate

**Jesse Wiesblatt**

Community Engagement and Events Associate

*We also acknowledge the outstanding  
commitment, focus, and contributions over  
the past year by staff members who have  
recently transitioned from the organization,  
including: Esteban Bongiovanni, former  
Regional Director (Quebec); Abigail Brown,  
who served as Director of Marketing and  
Communications during a staff parental leave;  
and Bo Wang-Frape, former Vice President of  
Finance and Administration.*

# Connect with Us

## National Office

**205-145 Front St. East Toronto,  
Ontario M5A 1E3**

**Toll free: 1-877-413-7970**

**E-mail: [info@ovariancanada.org](mailto:info@ovariancanada.org)**

**Fax: 416-962-2701**

**Please Note:** Our National office remains closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Regional Offices

**British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon,  
Northwest Territories, and Nunavut**

**Tracy Kolwich, Regional Director**

**Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 Ext. 341**

**Telephone: 604-676-3428 Ext. 341/  
604-219-5330**

**E-mail: [tkolwich@ovariancanada.org](mailto:tkolwich@ovariancanada.org)**

**Fax: 604-676-3435**

**Manitoba, Saskatchewan**

**Stephanie Gosselin, Regional Director**

**Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 Ext. 351**

**Telephone: 639-397-0163 Ext. 351**

**E-mail: [sgosselin@ovariancanada.org](mailto:sgosselin@ovariancanada.org)**

**Fax: 639-397-0163**

**Ontario**

If you are living in Ontario and have questions about:

- **Support Resources and Programs**, please contact Stephanie Gosselin, Regional Director, [sgosselin@ovariancanada.org](mailto:sgosselin@ovariancanada.org), Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 x 351
- **Events**, please contact Tara Frotten, Community Engagement and Events Manager, [tfrotten@ovariancanada.org](mailto:tfrotten@ovariancanada.org), Toll free: 1 (877) 413-7970 x 235
- **The Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope**, please contact Jesse Wiesblatt, Community Engagement and Events Associate, [jwiesblatt@ovariancanada.org](mailto:jwiesblatt@ovariancanada.org), Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 x 236

## Quebec

**Valerie Dinh, Regional Manager**

**Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 Ext. 331**

**Telephone.: 514-369-2972 Ext. 331**

**E-mail: [vdinh@ovariancanada.org](mailto:vdinh@ovariancanada.org)**

**Fax: 514-940-0158**

**New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince  
Edward Island, and Newfoundland  
and Labrador**

**Emilie Chiasson, Regional Director**

**Toll free: 1-877-413-7970 Ext. 321**

**Telephone: 902-404-7070 Ext. 321**

**E-mail: [echiasson@ovariancanada.org](mailto:echiasson@ovariancanada.org)**

**Fax: 902-404-7071**

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