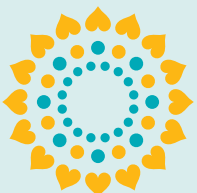


Report to the Community

2022-23



Ovarian Cancer Canada
Cancer de l'ovaire Canada

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Message from the Chair and CEO

After decades without real change, improved outcomes are possible — finally.

We know that ovarian cancer remains the most fatal women's cancer in Canada and of the 3,000 women diagnosed annually more than half will not live 5 years past diagnosis, **but we are finally on the cusp of breakthroughs that can change the face of this disease.**

At Ovarian Cancer Canada we are setting an ambitious direction for the future. We examined our role to determine how we can make the greatest impact today and for generations to come. To inform our new 5-year strategic plan (2023-2029) and our mission, we engaged our patient, research, and supportive community members asking critical questions. **We heard you loud and clear.**

Through Ovarian Cancer Canada's research initiative and network of ovarian cancer researchers, we have built a pipeline of discovery which has the potential to address thousands of research questions, including how to better prevent, diagnose, and treat ovarian cancer, and how to better support women living with the disease. **Ovarian cancer research is a priority that cannot be ignored.**

This past year, we optimized our education programming, partnered up to make a greater impact, and fine-tuned our offerings to provide expert-led resources and tools, and unite those diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Community members were relentless in their fundraising and underscored a steadfast commitment. Advocates raised their voices louder than ever and we were heard across the country. **The momentum is undeniable.**

We will continue to work shoulder to shoulder with our community who have dedicated their time, effort, and hard-earned dollars to this cause. We've needed you every step of the way, and we need you to stand up with us now more than ever to help push our mission forward.

Ovarian Cancer Canada is a growing force, and we are committed to meeting the diverse needs and voices of this community. **We will evolve and disrupt the norm because it is our time to boldly and unapologetically take action — lives depend on it.**



Tania Vrionis
Chief Executive Officer



Erin Barrett
Chair (2021-2023),
Board of Directors

Disrupting the norm

Our bold way forward

At Ovarian Cancer Canada, we reject the notion that ovarian cancer can't be eradicated. We are here to demand action, deliver change, and transform lives. We stand hand-in-hand with the people experiencing, affected by, or at risk of the disease. We will not rest until women are able to live their lives freely, fully, and uninhibited by ovarian cancer.

Our mission

To boldly and unapologetically take action against ovarian cancer until the number of deaths from this disease is zero.

Our vision

A future where ovarian cancer is preventable, curable, and ultimately eradicated.

Our values



Impact

We measure our success not by how much we do, but how much we achieve for women. We commit to delivering transformational change because lives are at stake. We know this requires focus, discipline, and hard work, and we're here to deliver.



Synergy

We define the gold standard of patient engagement. We insist on integrating the voices of those affected by ovarian cancer in every area of our work. We address needs and develop solutions that are relevant, impactful, and responsive for our community.



Collaboration

We believe in the strength of our unified community. We know that working together is necessary for speed, efficiency, and impact. Pooling our resources and sharing our expertise is essential for achieving our shared mission.



Momentum

With unyielding ambition, we deliver the necessary actions and ideas to disrupt the field. We reject complacency and tackle the challenges that no one else will. We take leaps in place of strides, feel inspired by new ways of thinking and doing, and embrace any failure as an opportunity to learn.



Integrity

We commit to complete truthfulness, full transparency, and unwavering accountability.

Strategic Plan 2023–2029

Our strategic plan looks to the future and guides our work. Our plan builds on our past successes and delivers a new vision to meet future challenges.



Saving the lives of women in Canada

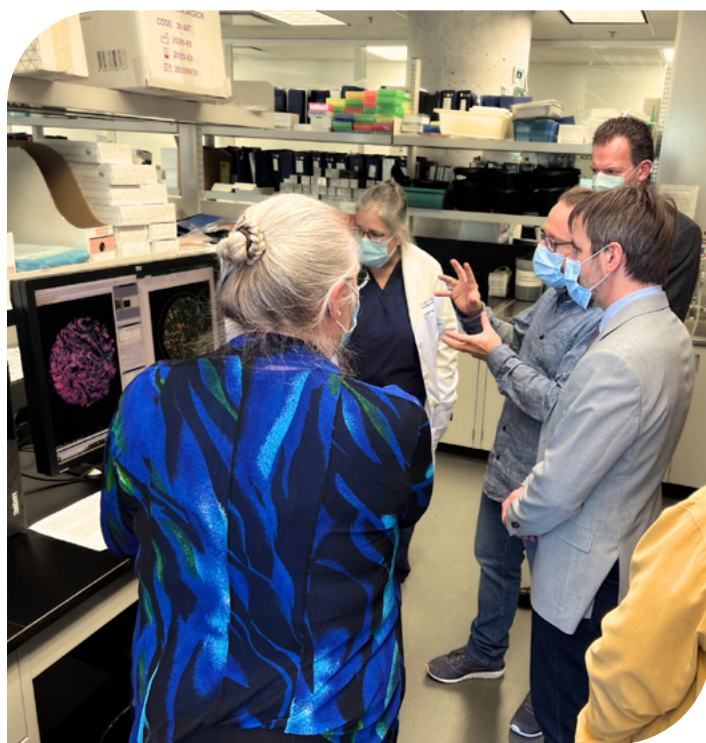
Canadian innovation in ovarian cancer research

The Canadian ovarian cancer research community is pushing the boundaries of how research is conducted, and what is possible to achieve on an accelerated timeframe.

In 2019, the Canadian government took the bold step of entrusting Ovarian Cancer Canada with a \$10 million investment for ovarian cancer research to improve outcomes – this small investment may have changed the trajectory of ovarian cancer research efforts, and ultimately, change the lives of thousands of women in Canada and millions more around the world.

We have made great progress in the first three years of this five-year initiative through collaborative efforts with the research and patient communities, and our research has led to new discoveries.

We worked closely with the ovarian cancer research community to re-imagine the traditional approach to medical research. We used the funding to support research that benefits and involves the whole ovarian cancer research eco-system (scientists, clinicians, patients, partner organizations) and was aligned to the collective goals of researchers, rather than focusing on individual research pursuits.



Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbault, right, visits an Ovarian Cancer Canada funded research project at the Centre de recherche du CHUM in Montreal in December 2022.

We have made decisions together with the research community, funding research projects that show early promise and which would ultimately benefit patients most. By working together, researchers have continuously built on one another's progress, making advancements quicker and more efficiently.

The momentum we've created in ovarian cancer research is unlocking new insights that can change the face of this highly fatal disease, offering women new treatment options and creating international recognition for Canada as a leader in pioneering transformative research and discoveries.

From exploring how to use a vaccine to trigger the body's own immune system to fight the cancer, to answering the question of how we can improve prevention, treatment, and prognosis for Indigenous and other marginalized and at-risk populations, to designing new treatment strategies and bringing forward new clinical trials, our research community is pushing the boundaries.

We can't afford to stop the progress that has been made in understanding this disease. You can help us change the lives of thousands of women in Canada and millions more around the world.



At the Boudreau laboratory at Dalhousie University, researchers and Ovarian Cancer Canada representatives welcomed The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Andy Fillmore, Member of Parliament for Halifax and Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation, Science and Industry, to discuss the national research engine at work.



Stephanie Gosselin, Director of Programs, Ovarian Cancer Canada; Starla Fiddler, patient advocate; Paul Merriman, Saskatchewan's Minister of Health and Tania Vrionis, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada.



Support ovarian cancer research

Elevating the voices of our community

A patient-centred approach to research

Ovarian Cancer Canada's Patient Partners in Research Program complements and maximizes the impact of cancer research being done by Ovarian Cancer Canada supported scientists. We believe clinical inquiry can be enhanced by appreciating the unique perspectives of those affected by this disease.

Our patient-centred research ensures that individuals with ovarian cancer are integrated throughout all aspects of our research initiatives, elevating the voice of the ovarian cancer community in our work.

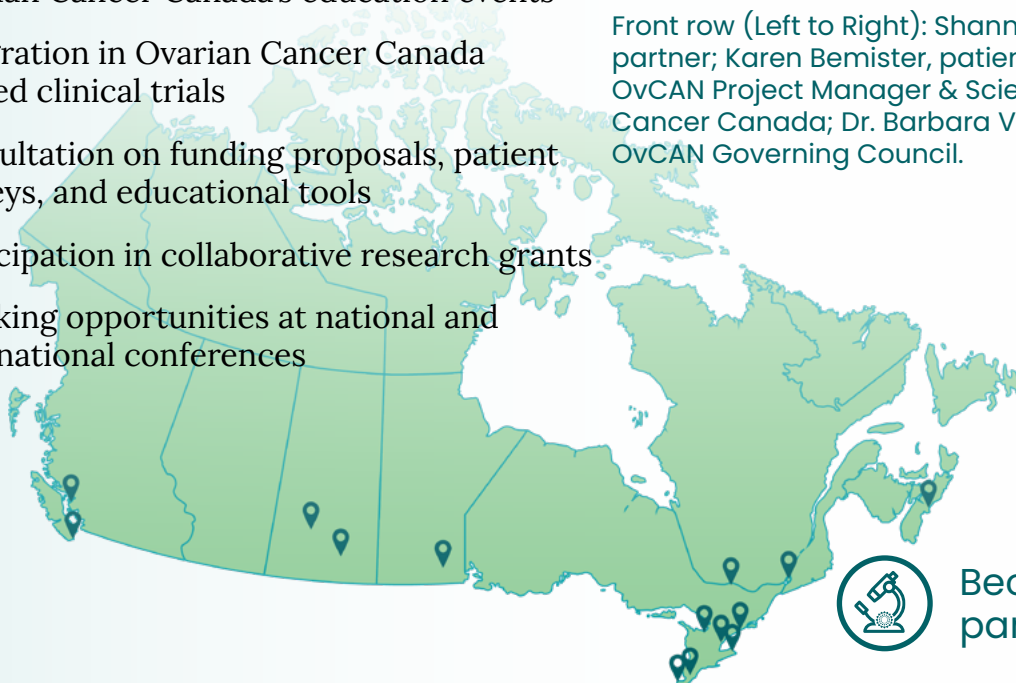
Patient partner activities include:

- Participation on international and national grant review panels for pre-clinical studies and clinical trials
- Participation in sessions with researchers, including trainees
- Participation as panelists and speakers at Ovarian Cancer Canada's education events
- Integration in Ovarian Cancer Canada funded clinical trials
- Consultation on funding proposals, patient surveys, and educational tools
- Participation in collaborative research grants
- Speaking opportunities at national and international conferences



Back row (Left to Right): Tania Vrionis, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada; Yelena Aizenber, patient partner; Julie Mulligan, patient partner; Emma Gerber, trainee; Donna Pepin, Patient Lead of Patient Partners in Research, Patient Advisor on OvCAN Governing Council; Cailey Crawford, VP of Programs and Policy, Ovarian Cancer Canada; Peggy Pickett, patient partner; Cristina Toporas, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Front row (Left to Right): Shannon Kadar, patient partner; Karen Bemister, patient partner; Alicia Tone, OvCAN Project Manager & Scientific Advisor, Ovarian Cancer Canada; Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden, Chair of OvCAN Governing Council.



Become a patient partner in research

Expanding innovation, awarding excellence

Meet Qingchuan Zhao, 2022 Anita Unruh Prize winner

We know that innovation is the key to advancing research into this disease and that to foster new ideas, it is vital to support researchers at the start of their careers.

Qingchuan is a graduate student at the Université de Montréal's Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC). Her research, published in an American Association for Cancer Research journal paper titled "Proteogenomics Uncovers a Vast Repertoire of Shared Tumour-Specific Antigens in Ovarian Cancer," represents the first comprehensive analysis of ovarian tumour antigens — molecules on the surface of cancer cells that are not present in normal cells. Identifying these tumour-specific antigens (TSAs) is crucial for developing new therapeutic strategies, such as designing vaccines to stimulate the anti-cancer immune response. Qingchuan's ovarian cancer vaccines are in preclinical studies funded by Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Qingchuan's study expanded the scope of traditional TSA surveys, which tend to focus on mutations in DNA "coding regions," which account for just 2% of the human genome. Instead, this study aimed to establish the global TSA landscape of ovarian cancer by taking all genomic regions into account.

"We identified a vast repertoire of antigens, and the majority of them come from non-coding regions. Most of these antigens were unmutated, meaning they could potentially be shared between different patients. That creates a lot of possibilities," says Qingchuan.

The Anita Unruh Prize was established in 2016 by Patrick McGrath in honor of his wife, a former Associate Dean and Professor, to reward excellence in trainee research and encourage trainees to establish careers focused on ovarian cancer. The Anita Unruh Prize, in combination with Ovarian Cancer Canada's multifaceted approach to research, is growing this community exponentially, and advancing Canadian innovations.



Tania Vrionis, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada;
Patrick McGrath; Qingchuan Zhao; Erin Barrett,
Chair of the Board, Ovarian Cancer Canada



Learn more about this promising research

Bringing hope across Canada

Research knows no bounds

Meet Julia Laliberte. At the age of 34, Julia was diagnosed with low-grade serous ovarian cancer, which is among the rare forms, comprising less than 10 percent of cases.

“There is a great need to allocate more funding for research on rare cancers. It is important to appreciate that 40-50% of gynecological cancers are rare. However, the number of rare cancer types is increasing, due to our ability to define molecular subgroups of cancer — even within the more common types of cancer (lung, breast, bowel, prostate),” says Dr. Mark Carey, Clinical Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology University of British Columbia.

“Dr. Carey is just one of the many researchers I am proud to have in my corner. I’ve seen with my own eyes the ground-breaking progress Ovarian Cancer Canada is making. It’s exciting to know that research in labs all the way in British Columbia is making its way back to me in Montreal. This progress gives me hope — not just for me, but for the women like me, and the 3,000 more who will be diagnosed next year,” says Julia.

Women with this type of ovarian cancer have fewer treatment options, and fewer opportunities to participate in clinical trials. The need for progress is urgent. We’re very pleased with the support from Ovarian Cancer Canada. Funding for work like this isn’t generally supported by traditional research grants.

Dr. Mark Carey



Julia Laliberte at the 2022 Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope in Montreal

With increased funding women like Julia can benefit from improved survival rates, more treatment options, and more opportunities to participate in research.



Support ovarian cancer research

Unstoppable momentum

Ovarian Cancer Canada's Day on the Hill

On October 11, 2022, Ovarian Cancer Canada and our community of patient advocates and researchers participated in a series of successful meetings with members of Parliament in Ottawa urging all political parties to continue investing in scientific progress against ovarian cancer.

"I felt inspired after attending meetings with government who listened to my story and wanted to find ways to support the important work that is being done by Ovarian Cancer Canada to understand and treat this disease. Now I am even more determined to continue to use my voice to help improve outcomes for other women like me," says Meredith Gowling, living with ovarian cancer.

Gathering over Zoom and on Parliament Hill, our message was clear, **Canada needs to continue to invest in ovarian cancer research to improve patient outcomes.**

"With further funding, we can better understand how health inequities impact those affected by ovarian cancer, keep those with lived experience of this disease front-and-center in our research and continue to answer the most critical research questions," says Tania Vrionis, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada.



Left to right: Kim Rudd, Former Member of Parliament and Ovarian Cancer Survivor; Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, former Minister of Health; Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden, Chair of OvCAN Governing Council; Tania Vrionis, CEO of Ovarian Cancer Canada; Hon. Don Boudria, P.C, former Senior Counsellor with Hill & Knowlton Canada



Top left to right: Iqindar Gaheer, MP; Erin Barrett, Chair of the Board, Ovarian Cancer Canada and patient advocate

Bottom left to right: Kerri Parslow, patient advocate; Dr. Jim Petrik, Researcher, University of Guelph



Top left to right: Jillian Ferguson, Members Assistant to Karen Vecchio, MP; Cailey Crawford, Vice President, Programs and Policy, Ovarian Cancer Canada

Bottom left to right: Karen Vecchio, MP; Shannon Kadar, Ovarian Cancer Canada patient partner in research and patient advocate



Read the recap

Advocacy in action

Advancing clinical trials using a personalized medicine approach

By funding early phase clinical trials, we bring the best new treatments to people living with ovarian cancer. Our goal is to ensure that studies are national in scope, build on Canadian science, include studies on samples collected throughout the trial, when possible, have meaningful patient engagement and have the potential to create a large impact.

We are on the cusp of bringing new treatment strategies to our community with six potentially transformative clinical trials underway and 13 innovative pre-clinical studies in the pipeline.

A clinical trial is a type of research study that tests health interventions (for example, a new medication) on people. Clinical trials provide access to experimental treatments that could eventually become the next standard treatments.



Research models are developed by top Canadian ovarian cancer researchers

Novel treatments are tested in leading laboratories nationwide

Personalized clinical trials are initiated across Canada

Through these activities, Ovarian Cancer Canada will have a significant impact on the outcomes of those with ovarian cancer, helping Canadians achieve better quality of life and longer survival.



Hear from the experts

Advocacy in action

Removing barriers to provide tools patients need

Factors such as knowledge and understanding of ovarian cancer, time to diagnosis, symptom recognition and clinical trial awareness have an enormous bearing on experiences and outcomes. Thanks to the **Every Woman Study: Canadian Edition** we released in 2021, the study's findings prompted us to develop self-advocacy tools to ensure Canadians can make the best decisions about their care, without barriers.

Check out our tools providing guidance to **have an effective conversation with doctors about clinical trials** and how to **assess your risk for ovarian cancer with a symptom tracker**.



Visit our website
for more resources

Teaming up to improve access in Quebec

Working collaboratively with partners is essential to make the greatest impact, serve those who need us most and reach more people experiencing ovarian cancer. Ovarian Cancer Canada is proud to partner with Q-CROC to provide the ovarian cancer community in Quebec access to vital resources and information about clinical trials that have the potential to improve survival and quality of life.



“Q-CROC is pleased to collaborate with Ovarian Cancer Canada, an organization that advocates for the health and wellbeing of women with ovarian cancer, and others at risk of this disease while advancing research to save lives. By working together, our two organizations will improve access to ovarian cancer clinical trials in Quebec,” says Lucie D'Amours, General Manager of Q-CROC.

Increased participation in clinical research is an important goal to support the development of tomorrow's treatments and to provide a better understanding of the disease.

Ensuring equitable access

Targeted advocacy in Prince Edward Island



Minister Jean-Yves Duclos; Tania Vrionis, CEO, Ovarian Cancer Canada; Minister Ernie Hudson; Della Sweet, patient advocate; Sharlene Wallace, Community Engagement Lead, Atlantic, Ovarian Cancer Canada

Recent scientific advances have led to targeted treatments for patients with the most common type of ovarian cancer. PARP inhibitors like Lynparza (olaparib) and Zejula (niraparib) are novel effective oral medications based on personalized/precision medicine. These drugs extend the time before a relapse, and some patients have experienced a long-term response up to several years.

Women living in Prince Edward Island (PEI) now have access to precision treatments for ovarian cancer, thanks to Ovarian Cancer Canada's advocacy efforts.

As a direct result of a targeted advocacy, on December 28, 2022, PARP inhibitors (Lynparza (olaparib) and Zejula (niraparib)) were added to PEI's drug formulary, meaning that women living with ovarian cancer across Canada, including Indigenous populations through the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program and Veterans, now have access to these drugs as a part of their personalized care.

We thank Minister Ernie Hudson and the PEI Government for adding ovarian cancer drugs to the province's drug formulary; Minister Jean-Yves Duclos for including ovarian cancer drugs as part of the governments Improving Affordable Access to Prescription Drugs Initiative; Members of PEI's Legislative Assembly, Michele Beaton and Karla Bernard for championing this cause to have ovarian cancer drugs made accessible to patients in PEI; and our passionate advocates for standing up in the community.



Read more about our advocacy in action

Stopping the disease before it starts

Advancing prevention opportunities to save lives now

Given the challenges with early detection and limited treatment options for ovarian cancer, the most effective way to impact ovarian cancer incidence and outcomes now is through prevention. It is essential to identify who is at high risk of ovarian cancer and to improve their access to prevention opportunities.

Ovarian Cancer Canada is convening the research community and working with leading minds to prioritize advocacy and research that can effectively reduce the risk of ovarian cancer and prevent the disease before it starts.

We are raising our voices loud, ensuring that women know their options and their risk and have the necessary information to take action. Our Prevention Task Force is collaborating to conduct research and advocacy that will lead to improved prevention opportunities, and share knowledge with gynecologists, family doctors and those at high risk of developing ovarian cancer so they understand the role genetic testing and risk-reducing gynecologic surgery play in decreasing the incidences of the disease.

Finding out I am a BRCA1 mutation carrier has opened my eyes, not only to the preventive measures I could undertake to reduce my ovarian cancer risk, but also in the way that knowledge is power, and I can better advocate for myself and my children. I'm grateful to say that at 40 years old I can live much more worry free now that I've undergone both a risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy and mastectomy. Prevention begins with awareness, which is why I am proud to be a member of the Prevention Task Force to share my experience and drive prevention research forward!

Jessica Rousseau, Previvor



Find resources and expert-led sessions about the power of genetics

Learning and connecting

Access to experts and the latest information

Virtual education events are hosted for our national audience (in both English and French), making a lasting impression and fostering deep connection.

Our National Symposium and Research Forum connect women living with ovarian cancer and their caregivers with experts in the field to share knowledge and inspire progress.

Keep providing us with connections to the researchers and oncologists. Makes us feel more a part of our own treatment.

Research Forum attendee




 Watch the sessions

During our monthly Speaker Series, experts discuss many topics from clinical trials to advocating for care to sexual changes after cancer, all in a variety of formats such as creative writing workshops, yoga practice and panel discussions.

It's truly heartwarming for me to know this research is ongoing.

Research Forum attendee



 Watch the recordings

Learning and connecting

Creating a safe place for conversation

Teal Tea gatherings are hosted over Zoom for people diagnosed with ovarian cancer at different stages of their journey.

[I come to Teal Tea for] the compassion, understanding and encouragement of the group. A place to cheer each other on and sometimes cry together.

Teal Tea attendee



Our online community, OVdialogue is thriving with live chats and chat threads and provides a continuum of support. **There are +1,465 registered users.** OVdialogue creates a space for women living with ovarian cancer to exchange insights and learn from one another's experiences.

[I had] an oncology team that wasn't there to support me initially, that was very difficult. It really took me finding Ovarian Cancer Canada and OVdialogue that saved me from being so shut away from everyone else – women were connecting with other women and they were getting answers on ovarian cancer. I wasn't. It was everything that I was looking for.

OVdialogue user

Building relationships

Ovarian Cancer Canada in partnership with Wellspring Cancer Support provides various peer support programs for those diagnosed and living with ovarian cancer. Programming includes a peer-to-peer support group with trained volunteers from our community and facilitated virtual support groups.



To build relationships within the broader ovarian cancer community, Ovarian Cancer Canada partnered with like-minded groups for events including the Saskatchewan Ovarian Cancer Survivors - Research Update, Manitoba Ovarian Cancer Research Forum, and the Saskatchewan Ovarian Cancer Survivors - The Power of Connection and Knowledge.



Looking for support?
Visit our website for details

Demanding better outcomes

Saving lives remains the focus of the Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope

On Sunday, September 11*, thousands of Canadians coast-to-coast returned to the parks and trails to raise vital funds and awareness for this disease. After two years of virtual Walks, participants had the option to sign up as a virtual participant or stomp the pavement in their community.

“When I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, I was shocked,” says Debora Duclair, living with ovarian cancer. “We were an active family, and I was only in my early 40’s. I couldn’t believe outcomes have not changed in 50 years for people diagnosed with this disease. Ovarian Cancer Canada is changing that. And those who walk with us bring hope to families like mine.”

The Walk is the largest and most powerful event of its kind. It is the only walk in Canada to direct all attention and fundraising to helping people with ovarian cancer. Debora participated in her first Walk in 2016. **“When I signed up for the Walk, chemotherapy had deprived me of my energetic self. Finishing the five kilometres at the Walk felt like climbing a mountain. It was liberating,”** she says.

Participants, donors and community partners rallied together to raise \$1.4 million in support of the 2022 Walk. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to this cause.

*The Walk took place in Charlottetown, PEI on Saturday, September 10, 2022.



Debora Duclair at the 2022 Walk



\$1.4 million raised
in support of the
2022 Walk of Hope



Learn about
the Walk

Driving change in the community

Followings in Peggy's footsteps

In 1999, Peggy Truscott was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Three years later, she organized the first ever Ovarian Cancer Canada Walk of Hope in Toronto, Ontario. Her hope was to bring the community together so that women living with ovarian cancer would be able to gather and meet others who could relate to their experiences. The Peggy Truscott Award was created to honour outstanding volunteers who are making an impact in the ovarian cancer community, just like Peggy.

Meet the recipients of the 2022 Peggy Truscott Award of Hope

Cristina and Stephanie Valentinuzzi Vancouver, British Columbia

Cristina and Stephanie Valentinuzzi were inspired to give back to Ovarian Cancer Canada to honour the memory of their mom. They have been team captains of the Walk since 2012, host and volunteer at fundraising events, and have tirelessly advocated for early diagnosis and greater education of the disease, often quoting their mother with the phrase "knowledge is power".

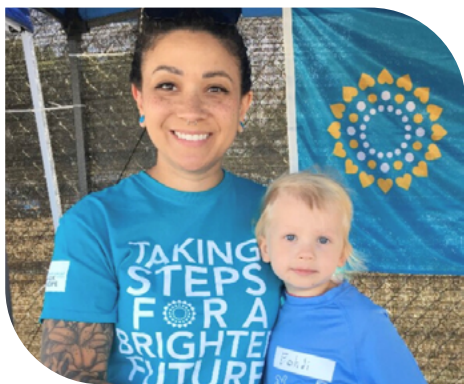


Dr. Marianne Stanford Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dr. Stanford is an ovarian cancer research scientist and advocate. For the past ten years, she has been instrumental in garnering support and building a strong relationship between the research community and Ovarian Cancer Canada in Halifax. She is also a dedicated volunteer of the Walk and THE LADY BALL gala in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Driving change in the community

Meet the recipients of the 2022 Peggy Truscott Award of Hope



Starla Fiddler
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Starla is a fierce advocate for all women living with this disease. She is one of Ovarian Cancer Canada's Patient Partners in Research, a member of the Walk committee and is always willing to share her story and use her voice for the cause. Every day during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, she created a TikTok showing the realities of living with this disease, which caught national attention.

Sandra Viviana Murillo Morales
Montreal, Quebec

Sandra sought out ways to give back very soon after receiving her own diagnosis in 2019. She has volunteered her talents as an artist by creating artwork for women living with ovarian cancer, facilitating an art therapy workshop, and is a member of the Walk committee. Sandra also isn't afraid to share her story on social media to advocate and fundraise.



**Jennifer Beauchesne,
Nicholas Courtois and James Cowan**
Vankleek Hill, Ontario

This trio is the powerhouse behind the Beau's 5k Run for Ovarian Cancer Canada. The Beau's 5k raises vital funds and was started by Ashley Cowan-Courtois, a young woman diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Jennifer, Nicholas and James now continue the event each year in memory of their friend, wife, and daughter, which has raised over \$288,000 since it began.



Volunteers are vital to push our mission forward.
Learn how you can make a difference

Standing strong

Leaders in the community inspire action

Fueled by a personal connection to the disease, Stewart McKelvey takes pride in contributing to the charities and organizations that make Atlantic Canada a better place to live, and actively invest in initiatives that drive growth and positive change. The Firm is a dedicated champion for Ovarian Cancer Canada and is actively involved in many aspects of our work.

From sponsoring THE LADY BALL galas and having staff and lawyers walk the runway during the fashion show to volunteering, participating and fundraising at the Walk to hosting Breakfast In Teal, the Firm extends their involvement beyond financial contributions. In fact, Lydia Bugden, CEO and Managing Partner of Stewart McKelvey, joined our volunteer Board of Directors.



My involvement with Ovarian Cancer Canada is deeply rooted in a personal commitment to supporting healthcare initiatives in Atlantic Canada. Ovarian cancer is an insidious disease, with symptoms being challenging to detect. That means we need to act swiftly – with awareness and research. Being part of this community of powerful women and witnessing the incredible work done by Ovarian Cancer Canada in advocating for healthcare and providing support, has fueled my commitment to this organization. I recognized the potential to amplify our collective efforts and further empower these brave women and their families. Serving on the Board allows me to channel this inspiration and contribute my leadership and expertise to bolster Ovarian Cancer Canada’s mission.

Lydia Bugden
CEO and Managing Partner, Stewart McKelvey



Stewart McKelvey is Atlantic Canada’s largest full-service law firm with six offices across four provinces. We are leaders in providing the valued legal advice and innovative solutions clients need to solve their challenges now and in the future. By thinking forward, we guide our clients with a forward focus by solving their business challenges, avoiding future risks and identifying new opportunities. We lead clients and the practice of law forward.

United for the cause

Dance for Her fundraiser returns



Organizers, from left, Shannon Kot, Heather Bakken, Bobby Sutherland, Greg MacEachern, George Wamala at The Dance for Her fundraiser for Ovarian Cancer Canada, held at Métropolitain Brasserie on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. Photo by Caroline Phillips

While having a casual drink at the local watering hole one day, a trio turned their grief into action and decided they would host an event to bring together friends from Parliament Hill, to let their hair down, and raise some money for the cause.

Dance for Her was co-founded in 2020 by George Wamala, director of regulatory and government affairs for RBC, Greg MacEachern, vice-president of Poor Strategies, and Robert Sutherland, senior director of government affairs for Gilead Sciences, in response to a shared realization that each of their lives had been personally affected by ovarian cancer.

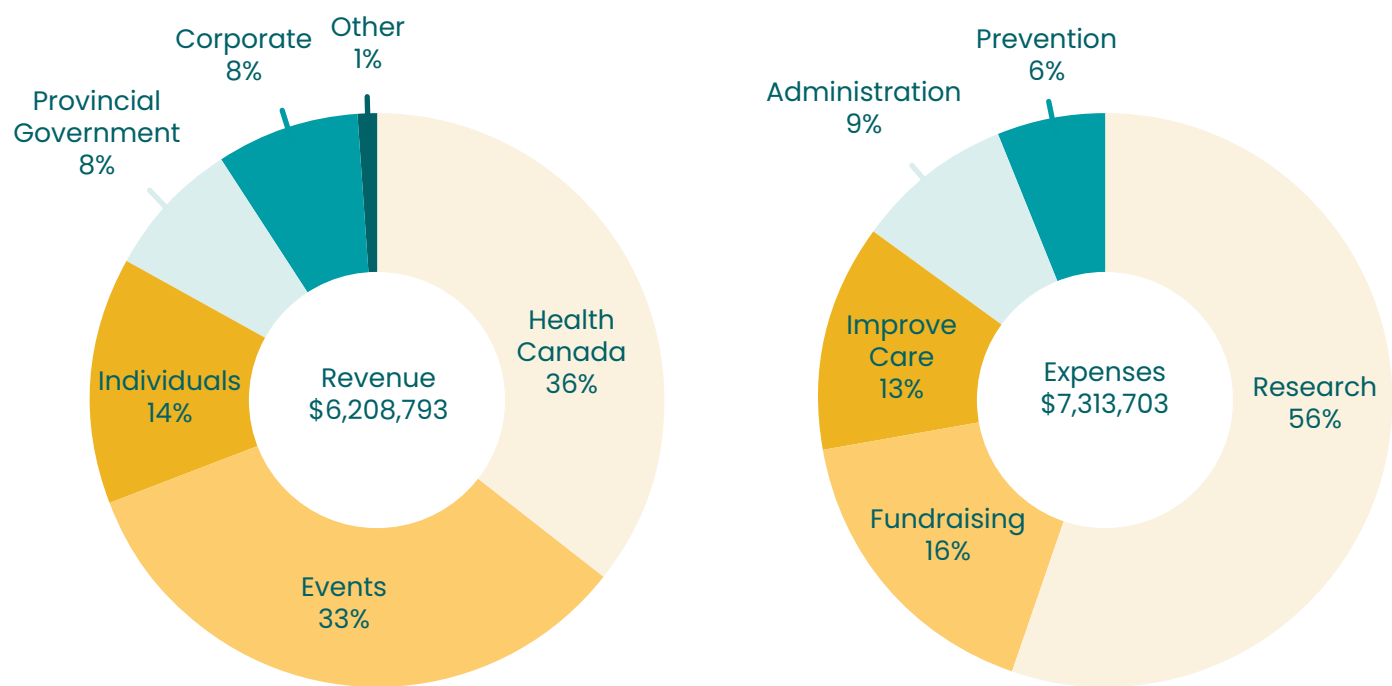
“We wanted to do something different from the standard cinq à sept receptions aimed at Ottawa’s parliamentary and business community. We brought in a DJ and had the event start later in the evening to make it fun and outside the norm of what folks are used to. We wanted to honour our loved ones, and help more women in the future, while ensuring people had fun at the event”, says George.

Over 130 people braved a snowstorm on January 25, 2023, in Ottawa and made their way to the Metropolitan Brasserie. There was a silent auction, music and dancing, comradery and shenanigans, and the event raised over \$23,000 in support of Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Making an impact

Your gift demands action, delivers change, and will transform lives

As the only registered Canadian charity solely dedicated to overcoming ovarian cancer, we have proven excellence in nonprofit accountability, transparency, and governance. Every dollar entrusted to Ovarian Cancer Canada is put to work immediately to improve outcomes for those living and at high risk of the disease.



On February 10, 2020, Ovarian Cancer Canada entered into a contribution agreement with Health Canada related to the Health Care Policy Contribution Program. Health Canada will provide Ovarian Cancer Canada with externally-restricted contributions of up to \$10,000,000 over the term of the contribution agreement expiring on March 31, 2024 (the "Health Canada Funds"). Over the term of the contribution agreement, Ovarian Cancer Canada has distributed in aggregate \$7,667,176 as at March 31, 2023 (\$5,532,334, as at March 31, 2022). During the year ended March 31, 2023, \$2,134,842 (\$2,345,971 in 2022) was distributed.



Accredited since 2014, we are proud to meet the rigorous accountability guidelines of the Imagine Canada's Standards Program. The Standards Programs Trustmark is a mark of Imagine Canada, used under license by Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Championing the cause

Board of Directors

The volunteer Board of Directors of Ovarian Cancer Canada provides governance oversight of the management and operations of the organization. The Board is comprised of volunteers impacted by ovarian cancer, community champions, and leaders in research, healthcare, and business; and are committed to furthering vital progress against this disease.

Erin Barrett
Chair
Vancouver, BC

Karen Greve Young
Vice Chair
Toronto, ON

David Power
Treasurer
Toronto, ON

Michel Brunet
Montreal, QC

Lydia Bugden
Halifax, NS

Deborah Clark
Regina, SK

Dr. Victoria Galloway
Burlington, ON

Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden
Ottawa, ON

Rowena Veylan
Vancouver, BC

Emeritus

Eileen Beadle
Deep Bay, BC

Tammy Brown
Toronto, ON

Anne Chase
Regina, SK

Bruce Galloway
Oakville, ON

Mark Galloway
Toronto, ON

Dedicated Staff Team

Our Leaders

Tania Vrionis
CEO

Cailey Crawford
Vice President, Program & Policy

Lise Johnston
Vice President, Finance & Administration

Becky Mitts
Vice President, Marketing,
Communications & Development

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Database Administrator

Tu Dang
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Margaret Noble
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Tapradi Ntogaiti
Office Manager & Administrator

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Specialist, People & Culture

Cristina Toporas
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Improve Care

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Program Associate

Stephanie Gosselin
Director, Programs

Rehnuma Kamal
Quebec Regional Manager

Robin Martin
Government Relations & Advocacy Associate

Alison Ross
Director, Knowledge Mobilization

Alexandria Tadman
Government Relations & Advocacy Associate

Fundraising

Heather Bunting
Philanthropy Manager

Annie Madl
Community Engagement Lead, West

Hossna Mazhari
Community Engagement & Events Coordinator

Tracey Raycroft
National Walk Associate

Amanda Stanton
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Sharlene Wallace
Community Engagement Lead, Atlantic

Courtney Willis
Community Engagement & Events Manager

Marketing and Communications

Julie De Liberato
Director, Marketing & Communications

Sherri Hamblin
Database Manager

Meaghan Ince
Marketing & Communications Associate

Katie MacLennan
Marketing & Communications Associate

Brittany Medeiros
Digital Communications Manager

Research

Jessica Lawson
Research Coordinator

Alicia Tone
OvCAN Project Manager & Scientific Advisor

Ensuring progress for generations to come

The power of legacy giving



The Buttitor family

John and Monica's daughter, Shelley, passed away in 2018 after being diagnosed at the age of fifty with metastatic ovarian cancer, stage 3b. Before her death, Shelley left a portion of her estate to Ovarian Cancer Canada — her hope to create a brighter future for those living through the experience she had.

"Ovarian cancer is a terrible disease...we never gave up hope that she would survive it," says John Buttitor.

After her passing, John and Monica would manage her estate, cementing Shelley's act of generosity to ensure it would make the greatest impact possible. As her loved ones, the couple found comfort in Shelley's investment in the future of ovarian cancer research and her legacy remains deeply meaningful to them. "Research is the only thing that will discover how to treat ovarian cancer and eventually discover a cure. Contributing to the cost of it through legacy giving is important," said John."



By leaving a gift in your will, your legacy will live on to fuel momentum and improve outcomes

Be a part of a bold way forward

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