

## “We’re all in this together”

*Windsor brain tumour survivor perseveres to make change for everyone affected*

**Windsor, Ontario, June 1 2015** – For all of her adult life, Melissa Martin has lived with the impact of a brain tumour. Diagnosed just after she turned 18 with a pilocytic astrocytoma, Melissa is the epitome of inspiration and strength for the brain tumour community in Windsor. Part of a local support group, Melissa has also led the annual fundraising fun-run and walk, the Windsor Spring Sprint, to incredible heights of success since it first began in 1997. And now, after passing on the volunteer event coordinator reins, she is determined to lead the biggest Spring Sprint team at the June 13, 2015 Spring Sprint for brain tumour research and patient programs.

“You know,” Melissa recalls, “it was a really scary time when I was diagnosed and going through treatment. I felt alone.” It was later on that Melissa found Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, and all the support that’s possible, when you lean on others. “I want everyone affected to know that they can ask for help, that they are not alone,” Melissa explains.

It’s this kind of support that Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada offers patients and families all across Canada. Led by volunteers just like Melissa, the Spring Sprint walk/fun-run program raises critical funds for programs like support groups, information and pediatric events through the Southwestern Ontario BrainWAVE program. The organization also funds research into the 120 different types of brain tumours, including meningiomas, the brain tumour Melissa faced when she received a second diagnosis in 2006.

After years of MRIs, CTs, surgeries, radiation treatment and countless doctors’ visits in London, Toronto and Detroit, Melissa continues to inspire those around her. She unabashedly shares her story with other survivors and the community to help raise awareness about brain tumours and what those facing the journey need: “Sometimes we may take a bit longer to understand something but know we are making an effort – anyone can support us by just being patient. Offer a hand or a shoulder or even a hug, because small things count. Together, we can make success.”

### Windsor Spring Sprint

**When:** Saturday, June 13 2015; 8:30am Registration, 10:00am Start Time for Walk/Fun-Run  
**Where:** Riverside Sportsmen Club  
**Fundraising Goal:** \$50,000

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### About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada offers hope to those affected through education and a national network of support programs. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada also funds brain tumour research through annual grants, fellowships and research studentships. All activities are supported solely by the dedication and determination of donors - individuals, corporate sponsors and foundations. Since the organization’s founding in 1982, more than \$4 million has been directed to brain tumour research. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca).

For further information or to schedule an interview with Melissa, contact:

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