

Media Release

ACCLAIMED ABORIGINAL SINGER LACES UP FOR WINNIPEG BRAIN TUMOUR WALK

Winnipeg, Manitoba, 23 June 2015 – Hearing loss that started out as an aggravation for acclaimed Aboriginal singer Rhonda Head, eventually revealed something she never expected to be the root cause: a large non-malignant brain tumour. Today, Rhonda manages the repercussions of the disease and its treatments, which left her with partial paralysis and deafness in her right ear – a significant challenge for someone who relies on hearing to perform. That’s why she takes part in the Winnipeg Spring Sprint – to ensure others who face a brain tumour diagnosis can find the support and services they need to feel knowledgeable about the disease.

Rhonda’s first diagnosis was in 1993, and a recurrence of the brain tumour was discovered in 1999. Due to the position of the masses, both near Rhonda’s brainstem, surgery couldn’t completely remove the tumours. After her first 11.5-hour brain operation in the early 90s, which required more than one year to recover from, Rhonda chose to undergo focused radiation to treat the second tumour.

It’s been a challenging 20 years for Rhonda, who says she wishes she’d had access then to the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada resources she does today. “All the information on BrainTumour.ca is so good. To have that around for my first diagnosis would have made a huge difference – for me and my family. I want to help make sure that anyone else with a brain tumour can find the same resources.”

The 2015 Winnipeg Spring Sprint will be the first for Rhonda and she’s excited to walk among a community of other brain tumour patients, survivors and supporters. “I know how scary it is, the brain tumour experience, and it’s so important to reach out to others who have been there. You do not have to give up on life, your hopes or your dreams. Those can all still happen for you!”

About the Winnipeg Spring Sprint:

Who: Brain tumour patients, survivors, family and friends
When: Saturday, June 27; 9:30am Opening Ceremonies, 10:00am Walk/Fun-Run
Where: Assiniboine Park
Walk/Fun-Run: 2.5km or 5km

Why do we walk? Every day, 27 Canadians learn they have a brain tumour. Right now, an estimated 55,000 Canadians live with this disease that can impair physical and mental ability and change personality or behaviour. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada brings hope, education and support to everyone affected. By signing up and fundraising as part of a brain tumour walk, patients, survivors, family and friends are part of a nationwide movement to end brain tumours. Their efforts support the specialized programs and resources that empower patients to be their own best health care advocates and fund the ground-breaking research that will find a cure for the disease.

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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 \$3.8 million has been directed to brain tumour research. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

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

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