

Young brain tumour survivor to lace up for Victoria Spring Sprint

Victoria, BC, May 13 2015 – Justine LeRose, 22, is a childhood brain tumour survivor who will lace up her runners on Sunday, May 24 in support of the 27 Canadians diagnosed every day with the same disease she battled. Justine joins the expected 200 participants at the annual Victoria Spring Sprint walk and fun-run, taking place at University of Victoria.

At the young age of 15, Justine was shocked to learn she had a large mass on her brain, causing her to behave and act in ways not typical for her. “I couldn’t think clearly, it felt like I had something like a psychotic break,” describes Justine. “It was terrifying to learn I had something growing in my brain – I didn’t know anything about brain tumours until I was diagnosed.” That first-hand experience is one reason why Justine has joined Spring Sprint – she wants to make sure awareness continues to be raised about brain tumours and their symptoms.

With a need to better understand the brain tumour journey and connect with other families navigating a diagnosis, Justine and her family discovered Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and the charity’s education and support programs. Taking part in information conferences and support groups helped clarify the complex disease and prepare Justine to transition to adult health care when she turned 18. “I think support programs are so important, and to find other people who understand what you’re going through,” she explains. “I know that having a support system around me while I went through two brain operations and radiation made a big difference.”

Victoria Spring Sprint

When: Sunday, May 24 2015; 8:30am Registration, 10:00am Start Time for Walk/Fun-Run
Where: University of Victoria
Fundraising Goal: \$25,000

- 30 -

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.

About the Spring Sprint – 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 join the 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. Dates and details for events across Canada are available at www.SpringSprint.ca.

To arrange an interview or for further information about Spring Sprint, please contact:

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