

### Increasing Our Understanding of Brain Tumours in Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada commends Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC) on the release of their detailed impact study of neurological conditions, including brain tumours. An estimated 3.6 million Canadians are directly affected by these illnesses, including the estimated 27 Canadians diagnosed every day with a brain tumour. Among the critical findings in report are:

- Brain tumour patients self-reported the second-highest prevalence of diagnosed mood disorders
- Brain tumour patients reported impaired cognition and mobility as well as consistent moderate to severe pain or discomfort
- In many provinces, data collected about the number of brain tumour patients continues to focus heavily on only malignant brain tumours
- Brain tumour patients reported a mean time period of slightly under two years from symptom onset to diagnosis
- A brain tumour registry would be an effective form of surveillance of brain tumours in Canada

Carl Cadogan, CEO of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada explains the significance of the report for advocacy efforts in support brain tumour patients and their families. “We commend the NHCC for their leadership in conducting this research and producing this report. Truly understanding the impact of brain tumours on families and the health care system is critical to making changes that will both improve the experience of patients but also result in savings and efficiencies.” Thanks to donors, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is taking steps already to address the issues identified above including the ongoing feasibility study into a Canadian Brain Tumour Registry, which was launched in 2013.

The financial burden of a brain tumour is real and this was also shown in the report, for all conditions. Over a third of the 177,000 Canadians who participated in the study reported that their family had experienced a financial crisis in the last year. If they had caregivers, those caregivers were twice as likely to experience distress as those caring for individuals without a neurological condition. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada hears from patients and families every day who are overwhelmed with the costs of the disease – from drug costs to loss of income, the burden is real.

#### About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reaching every Canadian affected by a brain tumour through support, education, information and research. Every year, thousands of people affected by brain tumours find emotional support and comfort through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, while gaining a better understanding and knowledge of their disease. There are an estimated 55,000 currently living with a brain tumour. Since the early days of the organization in 1982, it has been our vision to find the cause of and cure for brain tumours while improving the quality of life for those affected. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: [www.BrainTumour.ca](http://www.BrainTumour.ca).

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