



Chris Ballard MPP

Newmarket-Aurora

PRESS RELEASE

(IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

MPP Chris Ballard and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada announce private member's bill: Brain Tumour Awareness Month

(Toronto, Ont. June 2, 2016) – Today at Queen's Park, MPP Chris Ballard and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada introduced MPP Ballard's private member's bill the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Amendment Act. If passed, this bill will proclaim May, currently the month of October, as Brain Tumour Awareness Month. Changing the month would align Ontario with both British Columbia and the United States to create a North American Brain Tumour Awareness Month.

During his introduction MPP Ballard said, "I think it's important to recognize that this awareness month is just the beginning of what needs to be done to address this disease that impacts the lives of thousands of individuals and families each and every day in our province and across the country. Brain tumours are not a cause that typically receives a great deal of attention from the public or media. The goal of this bill is to raise awareness about brain tumours."

"We are delighted that MPP Chris Ballard has brought forward this Private Members Bill to declare the month of May as Brain Tumour Awareness Month," says Susan Marshall, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada CEO. "This bill provides much needed awareness about brain tumours and their devastating impact. Brain tumours are more common than people think. Increased awareness can lead to early detection, and with that, the best possible outcome for the patient. This bill will also bring hope to all the people in Ontario who have been affected by a brain tumour, and indeed, across Canada."

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The brain is the most important organ in the body. It controls the five senses, as well as the ability to speak and move. Brain tumours are surprisingly common and the symptoms can be subtle. Every day, 27 Canadians hear the words: “You have a brain tumour.” An estimated 55,000 people across Canada live with brain tumours.

This private members bill is a product of conversations between MPP Ballard and organizations such as Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was founded in London Ontario in 1982 by Dr. Rolando Del Maestro, a neurosurgeon, Pamela Del Maestro, a neuroscience nurse and Steve Northey, who lost his eight year old daughter Kelly to a brain tumour. Since its founding over 34 years ago Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has been dedicated to helping find the cause of and cure for brain tumours. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is also an active participant of the International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA), which works with organizations in over 100 countries across the world. These organizations focus on raising awareness of brain tumours, advocating for positive change, and supporting brain tumour research.

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Brooke Crewson
Executive Assistant
Queen’s Park Office
416-819-7036
bcrewson@liberal.ola.org

Patricia Palichuk
Public Relations
Constituency Office
905-750-0019
ppalichuk@liberal.ola.org