

## Media Alert

**We believe that people affected by brain tumours should never walk alone.  
This June in Sudbury, they won't!**

Sudbury, ON, May 30, 2017 – In this 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada will be returning to Sudbury for its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Brain Tumour Walk, a unique opportunity to celebrate survivors, honour and remember those who have passed away, and raise awareness about this devastating disease. Run by Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and local volunteers, this event will raise money for programs, services, and life-changing research.

“Patients and families are the heart of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. The Brain Tumour Walk will support all of the people in Sudbury affected by a brain tumour diagnosis and we’re so thrilled to see the excitement and support ramp up for this event,” says CEO, Susan Marshall. “Together we make a real difference in the lives of those affected by brain tumours.”

### Media Availability/Photo Opportunity:

- **What:** A celebration of hope, perseverance, and the beauty of community that is 35 years in the making!
- **Availability:** Patrick Bélec, survivor and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada Ambassador
- **Where:** Bell Park, Paris St, Sudbury ON
- **When:** Saturday, June 3, 2017: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
- **Survivor Photo:** 9:45 am
- **Opening Ceremonies begin:** 9:50 am
- **Walk begins:** 10:00 am

### About Patrick Bélec (Sudbury Brain Tumour Walk Ambassador, brain tumour survivor):

For Patrick Bélec, life in 2012 was full of classes, study sessions, and varsity sports until headaches and vision troubles began to cause concern. Then one day, after waking up from a nap in uncontrollable sobs, Patrick reluctantly skipped his anatomy test to visit the local ER. There, an MRI revealed the cause of his ongoing symptoms: a brain tumour. “Things happened very quickly- it was so abrupt,” recalls Patrick. The recommended treatment? Three brain surgeries over the course of three months, thirty rounds of radiation, and a healthy dose of good humour. Blind in his left eye and on at least 4 different medications for the rest of his life, Patrick’s enthusiasm and determination has not waned! This June, Patrick graduates from the French Nursing Sciences program at Laurentian University and he has generously chosen to volunteer his time with Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Together, they endeavour to bring hope to the brain tumour community, not only in Sudbury, but across all of Canada.

“My mantra – hakuna matata, no worries – was something that really carried me through the past few years. It helped me live in the present and one day at a time. If there’s any way telling my story can help someone else, I’m happy to share.” – Patrick Bélec

– 30 –

**To schedule an interview with Patrick Bélec or for further information about the 2017 Brain Tumour Walk events, please contact:**

Susan Marshall, CEO, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada  
519-642-7755 ext. 222 | [smarshall@braintumour.ca](mailto:smarshall@braintumour.ca)