

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada calls for every brain tumour in Canada to be counted, as it marks its 35th anniversary

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada commemorates its milestone year

London, Ontario, January 30, 2017 – International data suggests that Canada has one of the highest incidence rates for brain cancer in the world. Canada has not systematically recorded incidence rates for all primary brain tumours, traditionally omitting non-malignant brain tumours. An estimated two-thirds of all non-malignant brain tumours are not reported in cancer registries and yet they can be just as devastating as malignant ones. This must change in Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's 35th anniversary milestone year.

For years, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has estimated that 27 Canadians are diagnosed with a brain tumour each day. This figure is based on data that has been extrapolated from the Central Brain Tumour Registry of the United States (CBTRUS) and applied to the Canadian population. Given international variation in incidence rates of brain cancer, this assumption should be replaced with accurate data. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has long advocated for every brain tumour in Canada to be counted, which is why they have started the Canadian Brain Tumour Registry project.

Why does this matter? Data resources from a Canadian Brain Tumour Registry with readily available case information would help researchers expedite their studies regarding incidence and

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survival patterns, factors that may cause or prevent brain tumours, equal access to care, and quality of life. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is now advocating to complete the funding of this project in 2017, which would bring hope to the thousands of Canadians living with a brain tumour.

Today, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada marks its 35th anniversary. In 1982, after the death of his young daughter, Steve Northey pledged that her passing would not be in vain. Alongside his child's neurosurgeon and neuro-nurse, Dr. Rolando Del Maestro and Pamela Del Maestro, Steve launched what would become the country's only charity dedicated to helping anyone diagnosed with any type of brain tumour. "Though our reason for starting Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was heartbreaking, it is incredible to see the number of people and families we have helped since Kelly's passing," explains Northey.

Since the charity's founding in the early 1980s, thousands of Canadians have accessed information and support to better understand and cope with a brain tumour diagnosis. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is also a leading funder of research into the cause of and cure for the disease. Additionally, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada supports exploration on how to improve the lives of those individuals dealing with the side effects of a brain tumour or its invasive treatments. Chief executive Susan Marshall says, "It is critical that we continue to search for ways to stop brain tumours, and – the greatest vision for the future – that they can somehow be prevented, but we can't forget those who battle a diagnosis today. That's why we make sure to have resources

and a team of volunteers and staff who aim to make the brain tumour journey one full of hope and support, for every person impacted.”

In 2017, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada will continue to push for increased attention and awareness about the disease that thousands of Canadians are diagnosed with every year. This includes partnering with fellow health charities and research funders to mobilize action and put an end to brain tumours. “We are confident that the next 35 years are going to bring major changes to the world of neuroscience, and we are committed to being there every step of the way,” adds CEO Marshall. “The first step is to ensure that we are counting every single brain tumour in Canada, because every brain tumour counts”.

For more information about Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s 35th anniversary, visit www.braintumour.ca/35 or for more information on the Canadian Brain Tumour Registry project, visit www.braintumour.ca/registry

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5 Key Facts about Brain Tumours

1. There are over 120 different types of brain tumours, which makes treatment complex
2. Brain tumours are the leading cause of solid cancer death in children under the age of 20
3. The 5 year survival rate for all brain tumour types is 27%
4. The 5 year survival rate for Glioblastoma (the most common type of primary malignant brain tumour) is 4%

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5. Currently, the Canadian cancer surveillance system does not track statistics on all primary brain tumours. Complete and accurate data is needed to facilitate the research that will lead to a better understanding of this disease and improved diagnosis and treatment.

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity that offers information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant, or metastases. The organization also funds research across North America, and since 1982, has dedicated more than \$5.8 million to finding a cure for the disease and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. **Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.braintumour.ca.**

To schedule an interview about Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's 35th anniversary, or the Canadian Brain Tumour Registry, please contact:

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