

24th Annual Victoria Brain Tumour Walk

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VICTORIA, BC, May 13, 2019 – On Sunday, May 26, 2019, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada comes to the University of Victoria for its 24th annual Brain Tumour Walk. Joining this year's event is Tasha Finley, despite grieving the recent loss of her young son, Kaiden.

"We are so grateful to families like Tasha's, who keep their loved one's memories alive through these events. We've had the privilege to walk with this incredible group of people affected by this devastating disease in Victoria for the last 24 years," says Susan Marshall, CEO. "We will continue to walk every year until the cause of and a cure for all brain tumour types has been found."

In March 2017, Kaiden's Mom noticed his head tilting. She didn't think much of it but mentioned it in a routine doctor's appointment three weeks later. The doctor prescribed some physio. Then flu-like symptoms came, with headaches and vomiting. Kaiden lost weight. The doctor thought it was acid reflux and prescribed antacids. The family went to Victoria to get away for a few days and suddenly there was a look about Kaiden that told Tasha, Kaiden's Mom, that they needed to get to the hospital. Once there, the doctors realised that something was wrong, yet every test came back negative. The staff reassured Tasha that they were not going to let Kaiden go until they had figured out what was wrong. The final test was a CT scan, that revealed a large tumour on the back of his head. It was May 7, 2017.

Kaiden had surgery to remove the tumour, followed by six weeks of high-dose radiation. In September 2018, an MRI found six new tumours on Kaiden's neck, brain stem and down the spine. Two weeks later, they were in palliative care as there were no more treatment options for Kaiden. On Valentine's Day 2019 Kaiden could still walk. Three days later, he could not. Kaiden passed in March 2019.

"We prayed that Kaiden would be able to join us for the Brain Tumour Walk," explains Tasha "But we know that he will be here with us in spirit. He was at the event last year and was keen to raise awareness so that other families don't follow our journey. I will continue to share Kaiden's story in the hope that it helps other families".

What: Victoria Brain Tumour Walk

When: Sunday, May 26, 2019 (8:30am Registration Opens, 9:45am Survivor Photo, 9:50am Opening Ceremony, 10:00am Walk)

Where: University of Victoria, Parking lot 10, 3800 Finnerty Rd

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About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada: Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity offering information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization funds ground-breaking research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$7.2 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events like the Brain Tumour Walk. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

To schedule an interview with Tasha or for further information about the 24th Victoria Brain Tumour Walk, please contact: Susan Marshall, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, 1.800.265.5106 ext. 222, smarshall@braintumour.ca