

Media Release

Meet Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's 2020 Virtual Brain Tumour Walk Ambassadors

Survivors and caregivers open up in advance of June 27 national event

London ON – June 22, 2020

Over the course of the past eight weeks, Canadians have gotten to know the many faces of the 2020 Virtual Brain Tumour Walk. On Saturday, June 27, they will be joined by the rest of Canada as they take steps to #EndBrainTumours.

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is proud to have 15 ambassadors for the national Virtual Brain Tumour Walk – people who are using their own stories to spread hope and raise awareness of brain tumours. Over the course of May and June, these ambassadors have opened up about their struggles with brain tumours from different perspectives – parents, caregivers, patients and long-time survivors.

Their stories are all available to read at www.braintumour.ca.

It's there you can read how:

[Kaitlyn Lawes in Winnipeg MB](#) said she would trade all her Olympic success if it meant more time with her father.

[Christine Tizzard in Toronto ON](#) has been in the public life for years as a celebrity chef, but has been private about her lifelong brain tumour – even with her family.

[Anne Schwab in Montreal QC](#) learned to set aside her own anxieties and insecurities to focus on her son Leandre's brain tumour recovery.

[Abbey Boyd in Yellowknife NWT](#) became the first person to ever get engaged at a Brain Tumour Walk event.

[Katie Gilbert in Fredericton NB](#) is defying her prognosis, living with a glioblastoma for more than seven years.

[James Leskiw in Edmonton AB](#) is determined to keep his body and mind in shape to protect his doctors' investment in his health.

[Jedro Magtoto in Vancouver BC](#) decided life is too short, so he quit his corporate job and followed his dream of opening a DJ school.

[Anna Junge in Victoria BC](#) has been through a hysterectomy, breast cancer, and a brain tumour and counts each day as a blessing.

[Barb Clark in Guelph ON](#) is celebrating her 25th 'tumour-versary' and was a patient of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada co-founder Dr. Rolando Del Maestro.

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[Liz Gyuk in Belleville ON](#) has been involved in the Brain Tumour Walk program for many years as a participant and as a co-ordinator.

[Joshua Hunt in Whitehorse YT](#) has adapted to the side effects of surgery using technology and other tricks.

[Katt Szedetzki in Kitchener ON](#) said she felt guilty when she found out her tumour was non-malignant, almost as if she 'got off easy'.

[Alicia Chenier in Sudbury ON](#) decided that laughter is the best way to live with her side-effects that include loss of eyesight.

[Laura Dill in Ottawa ON](#) became a caregiver for two after both her father and stepmother were diagnosed with brain tumours within two weeks of each other.

[Seven-year old Emme Azar in Hamilton ON](#) has been through so much and yet, mom Michelle says, she has never asked "Why me?" – a testament to a child's strength.

"Our walk ambassadors are a key part of the brain tumour conversation," said Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada CEO, Susan Marshall. "Their experiences and perspectives provide hope to people beginning their journey, and insight for Canadians who may not be aware of the prevalence or severity of brain tumours." Each day in Canada, 27 people will be diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Each of these ambassadors has dealt with that diagnosis in their own way, and are happy to share their knowledge so that nobody who lives with a brain tumour has to walk alone.

There is still time to register for this year's Virtual Brain Tumour Walk, either as an individual or as part of a team. Visit www.braintumourwalk.ca to get started today.

The opening ceremonies for this year's walk begin Saturday, June 27 at 12 noon EDT, and will be hosted by Canadian broadcasting legend, Alan Cross.

To learn more about brain tumours and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, visit www.braintumour.ca.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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Facts about brain tumours

Each day in Canada, 27 people will hear the words, "You have a brain tumour." There are an estimated 55,000 Canadians currently living with a brain tumour. Signs and symptoms can include headaches, dizziness, blurred vision and behavioural changes, in addition to morning nausea, hearing impairment and



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weakness or paralysis. There are more than 120 different types of brain tumours, making effective treatment very complicated.

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. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada’s website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

