

CANADIAN CANCER
SURVIVOR NETWORK



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Together, all our actions matter!

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year is 2025. Globally we have experienced change, growth, innovation, loss, hope, and the same can be said for us here at the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network.

As you can see from the title of this page, one of the biggest changes is the I am writing this message to you instead of Jackie. I was named Executive Director of CCSN at the end of May, and I am very excited to be taking on this new role and the new challenges that may present themselves along the way.

The CCSN Digest podcast was launched in the middle of January. Our own Trevor Smith-Millar will be flexing his radio broadcasting muscles to bring listeners in depth conversations on popular topics covered in our webinar series as well as interviews with patients, survivors, and caregivers to hear more about their journeys through the cancer care continuum.

January always seems like a blur and before you know it our World Cancer Day open house was upon us. Attendees this year included members from Health Canada, city councillors, health companies, CCSN staff and board members, and of course individuals with lived experience.

Three All-party Cancer Caucuses were held this year in Victoria, British Columbia; Regina, Saskatchewan; and Toronto, Ontario. We met new patients, survivors, and caregivers along the way who always leave a lasting mark with the individuals who attend our events and meet with us one-on-one.



LINDSAY TIMM

CCSN also hosted its first ever golf tournament! We are happy to say that it was a resounding success. It was a hot Friday in August, but fun was had by all and many walked away with some incredible prizes from our silent auction and some serious bragging rights.

We are ever so grateful to have the support of the community and to be able to support the community in return. You help inform so much of what we do and for that we thank you. We look forward to maintaining partnerships and forming new ones in the coming year.

OUR MISSION

- To promote health by conducting educational activities for cancer patients, caregivers, and survivors on the physical and financial impacts, and other relevant topics, associated with managing cancer.
- To promote health by providing individuals living with and survivors of cancer, and their caregivers, with access to related counselling, information, or support group programs.
- To advance education by organizing and participating in conferences and speaking engagements to the public on topics related to cancer.
- To advance education by conducting research on cancer patients' and survivors' physical, emotional, and financial well-being and disseminating the results of the research to the public.
- To undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purposes.



OUR VISION

The Canadian Cancer Survivor Network will work to ensure that:

- Patients and survivors will easily access tools to understand decision making processes for positive change on issues critical to optimal patient care.
- Patients and survivors will be supported to make a difference through working with others to take action on those issues.
- Patients and survivors will obtain current knowledge about cancer treatment, options, and outcomes and be able to work together to end disparities in patient care and treatment.
- A network of patients, survivors, friends, families, community partners and sponsors will work together taking action to promote the very best standard of care, support, follow up and quality of life for patients and survivors.





Jackie Manthorne
President, CEO, Ex-Officio

OUR STAFF

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Trevor Smith-Millar
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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NEW PARTNERS

CCSN continued to expand its list of partners in 2025, collaborating with like-minded organizations.



HPV Global Action, established in 2006, delivers inclusive, evidence-based education on sexual and reproductive health. The group focuses on HPV, related cancers, and gynaecological health, promoting equity and empowerment. Collaborating with global leaders, they advocate for HPV prevention, cervical screening, and treatment access, especially in diverse communities where cultures and ideologies intersect.



Cancer Fatigue Services (CFS) is Canada's first medical clinic dedicated entirely to cancer-related fatigue. As Canada's first dedicated specialist clinic, CFS works to create a future when cancer-related fatigue is universally acknowledged, effectively treated, and no longer a barrier to living a fulfilling life with and after cancer.



Since 1988 Camp Quality Canada has run volunteer-led, free overnight summer camps for youth 7-17 affected by cancer and blood disorders. Camp Quality offers programs in Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Northwestern Ontario as well as Manitoba and Alberta.

For a comprehensive list of all our partners and coalitions that we are a part of, visit <https://survivornet.ca/connect/partners-and-coalitions/>.

FRIENDS REMEMBERED: ANGUS PRATT

In 2025, CCSN lost a powerful advocate and a dear friend.

On December 8, 2025, we learned of the passing of Angus Pratt. A beloved and well respected pillar of the breast and lung cancer advocate community.

As a tireless advocate, Angus was a champion for optimal cancer care for all. Better treatment, better access, better quality of life. If it could be bettered, Angus would get behind it and push for change. He led with light and courage that rivaled that of any lion on the savanna.

Some people strictly knew Angus as 'Red Hat'. He wore his red toque with pride, and it soon became one of his defining features. We hope that from this day going forward that all red hats evoke a sense of reassurance that Angus is near, encouraging us on to continue the work that he believed in so much.

As part of CCSN's reflections on his life and legacy, CCSN's Executive Director Lindsay Timm penned two pieces on Angus's life and his cancer journey. Timm wrote about an issue many cancer patients face: when treatment options run out and there are no longer options and the stigma of certain types of cancers. It is through his story that we can strive to improve cancer outcomes for all.





In response to the overwhelming requests for financial information from the cancer community, CCSN received a grant in 2022 to create a financial resource with the goal of educating patients about what options they have to alleviate the financial burden of cancer. Our goal was to provide as much information as possible, all in one place, for patients, survivors, and caregivers across the country.

After many months of work, and a funding boost thanks to our 2025 Golf Tournament, our Financial Help section includes a modern, comprehensive list of financial help resources. These resources are sorted into provincial and federal categories with the goal of making sure that anyone who requires assistance can have the tools they need to receive help to reduce the costs associated with cancer.

A big thank you to CCSN staff member, Muna Derie, for researching and compiling these resources into a user friendly database to support individuals through their cancer journey.



As part of our fundraising endeavors for Cancer Survivor to Financial Survivor, CCSN hosted its inaugural golf tournament on August 22nd at Greensmere Golf & Country Club. Sixty-one golfers attended the event, which included dinner, a raffle, and a silent auction. The event raised \$5000 to fund the expansion of our financial resources.

CCSN would like to thank our generous sponsors; Power Staffing Solutions, Rowat Insurance, Peter Sardelis, Vanity Roofing, Patch Boyz, Nando's Chicken and Deloitte. We would also like to thank all the Ottawa businesses who donated items for prizes and the silent auction.

20 WEBINARS

715 ATTENDEES 6300 COMBINED VIEWS

CCSN's Webinar Series continued its mission to connect patients, survivors, caregivers and the wider cancer community with the latest information in self-advocacy, health technology assessment, individual cancers, COVID-19, and general information important to cancer care and survivorship. The series welcomed back regular presenters like Dr. Rob Rutledge and Don Husereau, as well as introducing new speakers like Dr. Christopher O' Brien, Teresa Norris, Mina Yun and more.

CCSN would like to thank all presenters for thier contributions to the 2025 webinar series.

All webinars can be found at <https://survivornet.ca/learn/ccsn-webinar-series/>



The Complete Guide to the Anti-Cancer Diet by Dr. Rob Rutledge, CancerPEP

Pet Scans 101: A Guide for Patients and Families by Dr Christopher O' Brien, Medical Director and Chief of Service for Nuclear Medicine at Brantford General Hospital and Pembroke Regional Hospital

Collaborative Advocacy in Healthcare Technology Assessment by Dr Leonard Angka, Project Manager for the Canadian Cholangiocarcinoma Collaborative (C3)

The CCSN Cancer Caregivers Survey by Colette Faust, Research Director at Leger

Finding Purpose - One Woman's Journey from Diagnosis to AI Discovery by Ellyn Winters-Robinson, Author and Creator of AskEllyn.ai

Stop HPV cancers Before They Start: Prevention for Everyone by Teresa Norris, Founder and President of HPV Global Action and President of the Quebec Cancer Coalition

Health systems preparedness for the future of complex interventions by Don Husereau, University of Ottawa

Reprendre le travail après un cancer: dialogue autour d'un parcours et d'un accompagnement avec Nathalie Stoltz et France Locas, Fondation québécoise du cancer

An Update on Lung Cancer Screening by Dr. Stephen Lam, Professor of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and Medical Director of the Lung Cancer Screening Program in British Columbia

Breast Cancer Survivorship Nutrition: What You Eat After Treatment Matters by Mina Yun, Oncology Nutrition Consultant

Reducing Scan-anxiety: A Fireside Chat Q&A On Diagnostic Imaging by Dr. Zahra Kassam, Associate Professor of Radiology in the Department of Medical Imaging at Western University in London and Stuart Brice, Technologist

The Results of CCSN's Prostate Cancer Focus Group by Andrew G. Matthew, PhD., C.Psych, Christopher Wallis, MD, PhD, and Boyd and Lorrie Harrison

What every Canadian needs to know about radon in the 21st century by Dr. Dustin Pearson, Senior Scientist in the Goodarzi laboratory and Research Operations Manager for the Evict Radon National Study

The commonness, complexity, causes, & impact of cancer-related fatigue (Cancer and Fatigue, Part 1) by Dr. Scott Adams, Founder of Cancer Fatigue Services

The most effective treatments & management strategies for cancer-related fatigue (Cancer and Fatigue, Part 2) by Dr. Scott Adams, Founder of Cancer Fatigue Services

How you can take control of your energy & life (Cancer and Fatigue, Part 3) by Dr. Scott Adams, Founder of Cancer Fatigue Services and Peter Laneas, Advocacy & Engagement Lead

Changing the Story: Early Detection and Prevention of Endometrial Cancer by Aline Talhouk, PhD, is a researcher at the University of British Columbia

Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN): An overview of treatment options and a look into a novel exercise-based program by Eric Antonen, RKin, PhD student with the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto (UofT) and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

A Practical Guide to Prostate Cancer Genetics by Justin Lorentz, Certified Genetic Counsellor

Meditation and Visualization after a Cancer Diagnosis by Dr. Rob Rutledge and Dr. Gabriela Ilie, CancerPEP



CCSN'S PROSTATE CANCER FOCUS GROUP

CCSN, with the assistance of Meducom Health Inc., held a virtual patient focus group centered around prostate cancer.

The session was informed by Dr. Andrew Matthew and Dr. Christopher Wallis. To kick off the focus group meeting, Lindsay Timm, CCSN's Community Engagement Manager, welcomed the group of 14 participants who have experience with prostate cancer. Most were patients but we were also grateful to have the caregiver perspective represented as well.

Dr. Wallis gave a presentation on the different ways to treat prostate cancer and how important it is to choose the right treatment for each person. He said that cancer research has made big improvements in the last ten years, leading to better treatments.

Dr. Matthew talked about the side effects of prostate cancer treatments (ADT and ARPI). He said that side effects can be different for each patient. While we don't fully understand why this happens, several things might play a role, like how severe the cancer is, how long the treatment lasts, how strong the treatment was before ARPI, the patient's overall health, and their age.



The participants were welcomed to provide their feedback and experiences after each of the doctors' presentations to help inform lived experience recommendations. Patient Involvement in Treatment Decisions, Patient Awareness of Side Effects Before Starting Treatment, Treatment Side Effects and Impact on Daily Life, and Experience With and Views on Patient Resources were the four topics that participants made comment on and recommendations for as a resource to improve the outcomes and experiences of prostate cancer patients.

You can view the full report on the [Canadian Prostate Cancer Guide](#) by clicking [HERE](#).

NEW PODCAST - THE CCSN DIGEST

In the spirit of making our webinar series more accessible and expanding our educational mandate, CCSN launched a podcast in January 2025. Serving as an extension and expansion of the Webinar Series, the CCSN Digest not only presents the series in an accessible format, but also provides supplemental material, and updates from others in the cancer community.

The CCSN Digest is hosted by Trevor Smith-Millar, CCSN's Communications Manager, a former radio host with over a decade of experience in the industry. The podcast continues to grow its listener base and expand its offering as we move into 2026.



UNSUNG HEROES

THE HIDDEN STRENGTH BEHIND CANCER CARE

In 2025, CCSN released its report “Unsung Heroes: The Hidden Strength Behind Cancer Care”. CCSN commissioned Leger to conduct the survey, and the report, written by Meducom Health Inc., highlights the experiences, challenges and needs of cancer caregivers in Canada.

“Two of five caregivers have either reduced work hours, started a new job, or fully stopped working as a result of caregiving.”



Insight

“In our survey, over 70 per cent of caregivers reported that the emotional stress of caregiving was a major challenge. Watching [my wife’s] condition worsen over time was emotionally overwhelming, as was the knowledge that I could do nothing to make her better, no matter how desperately I wanted to. My role as a caregiver was to make her as comfortable as possible while she was dying. We talk about cancer patients who survive developing a new normal; this is also true of cancer caregivers. Life is never the same, and for those whose loved ones die, everything changes.” – Jackie Manthorne, CCSN President & CEO and caregiver for her late wife.



This essential part of cancer care takes great commitment; our survey found that caregivers dedicate an average of 21 hours per week to their responsibilities. In addition to this commitment, many caregivers report emotional and physical exhaustion, and financial strain. Nine in 10 caregivers reported experiencing challenges with caregiving, and two in five caregivers have had to either reduce their work hours or stop working entirely as a result of caregiving.

CCSN has since utilized the results of this survey to bring attention to the needs of caregivers, and the extra support they need as they perform this overlooked but much-needed service to cancer patients and survivors.

THE 2025 ALL-PARTY CANCER CAUCUSES

CCSN hosted three All-party Cancer Caucus (APCC) meetings this year.

On April 2, CCSN hosted its second APCC in British Columbia. We were joined by Cassandra Macaulay, Chief Research Officer of the Colorectal Cancer Resource & Action Network (CCRAN) and Dr. Dustin Pearson of the Evict Radon National Study & Research and the Goodarzi Lab of the University of Calgary. Dr. Pearson discussed the importance of radon testing and its impact on lung cancer diagnosis. Macaulay presented on how investing in Comprehensive Genomic Profiling (CGP) could benefit the province's ability to best serve cancer patients. Laura Floyd, a local lung cancer patient and advocate, provided the lived experience perspective for these topics.

CCSN held its third Saskatchewan APCC on April 14. We were joined once again by Cassandra Macaulay who presented on how the same investment in CGP could benefit Saskatchewan's cancer patients. Patient advocate Kristen Fiolleau joined the Caucus meeting to speak to how biomarker testing could have changed her experience and cancer journey with metastatic breast cancer.

CCSN's annual Ontario APCC was held on October 29th. Jackie Manthorne lent her lived experience as a caregiver for her late wife as CCSN presented the findings of its 2025 Caregiver Survey. Laura Greer, Executive Vice President at Burson, Health & Wellness + Global Client Lead, and patient advocate was also in attendance. Greer shared her experience as a metastatic breast cancer patient. She urged the government to address the cost of take-home cancer drugs.



HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS



In 2025, CCSN completed **ten** healthcare technology assessment submissions to Canada's Drug Agency (CDA) and Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux (INESSS). CCSN continues to ensure that the lived experience of those affected by cancer are included so that the latest in cancer care and treatment comes to Canada in a timely manner.

Please see below for the treatment, what cancer the treatment targeted, and the CDA's decision on reimbursement.



Reimbursements for treatment

Osimertinib - Non-resectable NSCLC - Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions

atezolizumab - Metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer - Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions

encorafenib - metastatic colorectal cancer - Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions

Lurbinectedin - metastatic SCLC - Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions

Provisional Funding Algorithms

Non small cell lung cancer - Lazertinib and amivantamab (Lazcluze and Rybrevant) Janssen Inc. May 14, 2025 (PC0392-000);

Amivantamab (Rybrevant) Janssen Inc. July 09, 2025 (PC0393-000);

Osimertinib (Tagrisso) AstraZeneca Canada Inc July 09, 2025 (PC0398-000)

Non small cell lung cancer - NSCLC without actionable oncogenic alterations - two submissions

Small cell lung cancer - Durvalumab, Tarlatamab, Lurbinectedin, Atezolizumab

Advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer with activating epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations

2025 CCSN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Although only one election was planned in 2025, Canada saw an additional provincial and federal election called that year. CCSN continued its practice of asking all election candidates about their stances on topics pertaining to the cancer community. These topics included:

- Removing age restrictions on colorectal, lung and breast cancer screening.
- Expanding Federal Employment Insurance (EI).
- Streamlining regulatory processes for new treatment indications.
- Expanding genomic testing.
- Providing equitable firefighter presumptive cancer coverage.
- Continuation of cancer care in emergency situations.
- Concerns about tariffs and their impact for Canadians.

These are the following elections we ran coverage for, with the results of our campaign:

Ontario Election (Feb 27 2025)

Received responses from the NDP, who formed the official opposition.

Federal Election (April 28 2025)

Received responses from four of the five major parties. Received an official party response from the Bloc Quebecois.

Newfoundland and Labrador Election (October 14 2025)

Received an official party response from the Progressive Conservative Party, which formed government.

Received an official party response from the NDP.

For more information and responses, visit <https://survivornet.ca/act/ccsn-election-campaigns/>





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