

Early Developments

Surviving kidney disease is a feat that is impossible without the achievement of innovative breakthroughs in medical science. In the 20th century, modern medicine saw the arrival of two major achievements: hemodialysis and organ transplantation. After this point, kidney failure was no longer the end of the road for those who were affected.

1945

Holland

A young physician named **Dr. Willem Kolff** was the first to succeed in saving the life of a patient suffering from acute kidney failure using a **dialyser** he had built with spare parts while working clandestinely in Nazi-occupied Holland.



1958

Canada

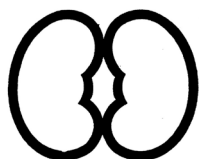
Over a decade later, **Dr. John B. Dossetor** coordinated a **successful kidney transplant** between identical twins at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, the first kidney transplant in the Commonwealth.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada's First Ten Years



Despite the advances of the forties and fifties, Morty Tarder, a young Montreal architect suffering from Goodpasture's Syndrome, an autoimmune disease that leads to kidney failure, could not be saved.

Confronted with their son's death, the Tarder family vowed to start an organization that would raise money for research into this poorly understood disease.



THE KIDNEY DISEASE
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LA FONDATION CANADIENNE
DES MALADIES DU REIN
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*Our first
logo!*

1964

Montreal, Canada

The Kidney Disease Foundation of Canada, as it was known then, was created with **Dr. John Dossetor** as one of its Founding Members.

The Sixties

In the 1960s, **hemodialysis** became a treatment option for patients with chronic kidney disease with the invention of the Scribner shunt. The shunt was a U-shaped tube that provided easy, ongoing access to a patient's circulatory system.

In the beginning, only a handful of hospitals provided hemodialysis, and selection committees determined who would receive this life-saving therapy.



1965

Kidney Research Is Prioritized

With the support of Dr. Dossetor, we established kidney research as a high priority and began to advocate for **greater awareness of kidney disease**, more **treatment centres**, and more research into **kidney transplantation**.

In 1965, **The Women's Auxiliary** of the Foundation also organized the first child-testing program to screen for kidney disease.

1974

Our First 10,000 Volunteers

Under the leadership of **Lawrence D. Bresinger**, a Founding Member and our first National Executive Director, we grew from a small group of individuals to an important Canadian health charity. By the time we celebrated our **10th Anniversary**, in 1974, volunteers for our Foundation numbered more than 10,000 nationally.

10,000



1968

The "Trick or Treat" Campaign

We launched our **first major fundraiser**, the "Trick or Treat" campaign, endorsed by then Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau.

1973

Funding Medical Research

We funded medical research into kidney-related diseases by allocating **\$25,000 for grants**.





The Kidney Foundation of Canada's "One Million" Decade

In the mid-1970s, on the heels of celebrating our 10th Anniversary, we met with a substantial challenge: inflation was driving up costs and also erecting barriers to our fundraising efforts.

Even so, when we look back at the 1974-1984 decade, it is the list of achievements that proves most striking, from increased investments in research and patient services to a mounting awareness of the importance of kidney health and organ donation.



1974

New Organ Donors

In 1974 alone, the Foundation distributed more than a **MILLION** organ donor cards.



The Eighties

In the 1980s, it was estimated that **1 MILLION CANADIANS** suffered from one form or another of kidney disease. So, our Foundation stepped up its efforts to increase awareness and reduce the burden.

1981

The Public Relations Campaign

A nationwide public relations campaign was mounted profiling four people "living with kidney disease", helping to put a face on Canadians directly affected. The campaign included **newspaper** and **magazine ads** as well as **television** and **radio placements**.

The Seventies

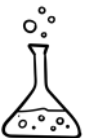
In the 1970s, the public started becoming more aware of kidney disease and dialysis as **information brochures** became more widely available, and toward the end of the decade, Canada officially declared March as **Kidney Health Month** to further grow public awareness of kidney disease and raise funds for research.

Dialysis times also shortened to 4-hour sessions, 3 times per week, and has become much more accessible worldwide

1979

A Year of Major Success

As March became Kidney Health Month, the month also saw the **inauguration** of what has become the annual, nationwide **Door-to-Door Campaign** to raise funds for kidney disease research.



\$1 million was allocated to **RESEARCH**.

In recognition of the International Year of the Child, our Foundation held its **FIRST DIALYSIS CAMP** in the Okanagan Valley of Kelowna, B.C. Camp Dialasun, as it was named, providing a **unique vacation opportunity for children with kidney disease** and ensuring medical needs could be met within the context of a regular camp atmosphere and program.



1982

A New Resource for Patients

The first edition of the *Living With Kidney Disease patient support* manual became available in both English and French.



1981

Expanding Research

Our support for research expanded to include a **Summer Student Program**, and a **Para-Medical Council**, which included nurses, social workers, dietitians, and other allied health professionals.

1984

Organ Transplant Programs

In order to maximize opportunities for Canadians and patients to respectively donate and receive lifesaving organs, we supported **computerized retrieval programs** across Canada to coordinate organ transplantation and tissue matching interprovincially and internationally.



These programs included Alberta's Human Organ Procurement and Exchange (H.O.P.E.), the Multiple Organ Retrieval and Exchange (M.O.R.E.) in Ontario, Quebec's Metro Transplantation, the Maritime Organ Retrieval and Exchange (M.O.R.E.), and the Organ Procurement and Exchange of Newfoundland and Labrador (O.P.E.N.).





The Kidney Foundation of Canada Is 30 Years Strong

1984 to 1994

Between 1984 and 1994, our Foundation showed evidence of pronounced progress in all areas of its work. We provided funding for over half of all non-governmental kidney disease research in Canada; and the array of support programs we offered included Travel Loans, Emergency Financial Assistance, and Educational Symposia.

We also took an active role in government relations, pressing provincial leaders to address the vital needs of people living with kidney disease by ensuring the availability or accessibility of optimum treatments, such as cyclosporine to combat graft loss for transplant recipients or erythropoietin to help with anemia in dialysis patients.

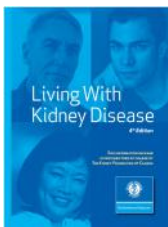


1987 Research Success

We provided funding for over half of all non-governmental kidney disease research in Canada.

The Canadian Coalition

We became an active member of the Canadian Coalition on Organ Donor Awareness.



1993 Program Successes

Our Board endorsed **three core "national" programs** for delivery to constituents across the country:

- Short-Term Financial Assistance
- Living with Kidney Disease
- Information and Referral



1985

Over 1 MILLION wallet-sized cards were distributed, explaining the warning signs of kidney disease.



1987: Advocacy Wins

Organ Donation in Quebec

Quebec succeeded in putting an **organ donation consent form** on the back of newly issued Medicare cards.

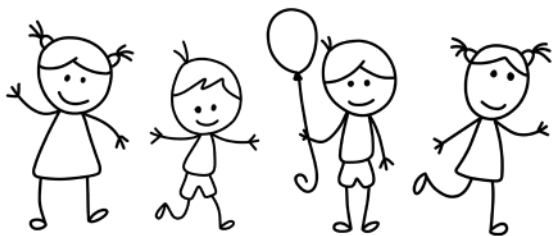


British Columbia

BC Branch successfully helped advocate for the reversal of the provincial decision, which did not allow payment for **cyclosporine treatment** for transplant recipients.



1994 Child test-screening for urinary disorders was expanded nationally.



1987

Erythropoietin

Patient advocacy ensured that erythropoietin (EPO) became a part of the provincial health services program.



1994

Our 30th Anniversary

We stood strong with 13 Branches and 93 Chapters across the country; and over **\$37 MILLION INVESTED IN RESEARCH** to date. We also hosted a **national dialysis symposium** and introduced an Endowment Fund.





The Kidney Foundation of Canada Takes on the New Millennia

1994 to 2004

The advance of the internet in the mid-1990s signaled change on many fronts; and the Foundation hit the ground running to better meet the diverse needs of the communities it served. We launched a website as well as multimedia tools for people living with kidney disease and mobilized the community nationwide to take a more active role in organ and tissue donation to improve the lives of those living with kidney failure. Additionally, with the creation of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), we found a new partner to empower important investments in kidney research.

1995

Organ Donation Challenge

We hosted the **Links to Success Forum** with 105 key stakeholders from government, healthcare institutions, the organ donor community, and the Foundation itself, to develop solutions to the critical shortage of organs in the organ donation process and propose ways to work collaboratively.

We responded to the organ donation crisis with implementation of the **LIVES plan (LEADERSHIP - INFORMATION - VITAL FUNDING - EDUCATION - SPECIAL PROJECTS)**, empowering collaborative projects to significantly increase the number of organs and tissues available for transplantation in Canada.

1997

Serving the Pediatric Population

Two new resources became available for those supporting the pediatric population affected by kidney disease: **Your Child and Chronic Kidney Disease** and **Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome**.



1996

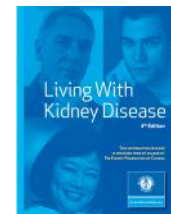
We launched a new pan-Canadian **website** and reached up to 11,000 visitors within two years.

Launch of the Medal for Research Excellence

Dr. David Z. Levine was awarded the recognition during this inaugural year.

5,000 People Reached

Our **Living with Kidney Disease** manual reached 5,000 people annually and became available in six languages and in formats like video cassette and audio tape with versions compatible for the visually impaired.



1998

Good News in Research

We hosted the **Horizons 2000+ Conference**. Its outcome: commitment to the development of a transdisciplinary, translational research training program to enhance capacity for kidney research in Canada (see www.krescent.ca).



2000

A Special Research Competition

We organized a special research competition focused on organ donation. One of the successful outcomes: **National Guidelines to Address Gaps in the Organ Donation Process**, based on research by Dr. Sam Shemie.

The **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)** was launched.



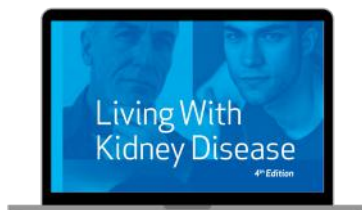
2002

Funding Grants

New Emerging Teams (NET) grants funded by us and CIHR became available. Dr. Patrick Parfrey received the Medal for Research Excellence Award. One of his projects, **CANPREVENT** (Canadian Prevention of Renal and Cardiovascular Endpoints), was among the six projects funded by NET.

Available Online

Our **Living with Kidney Disease** manual became available online.



1999

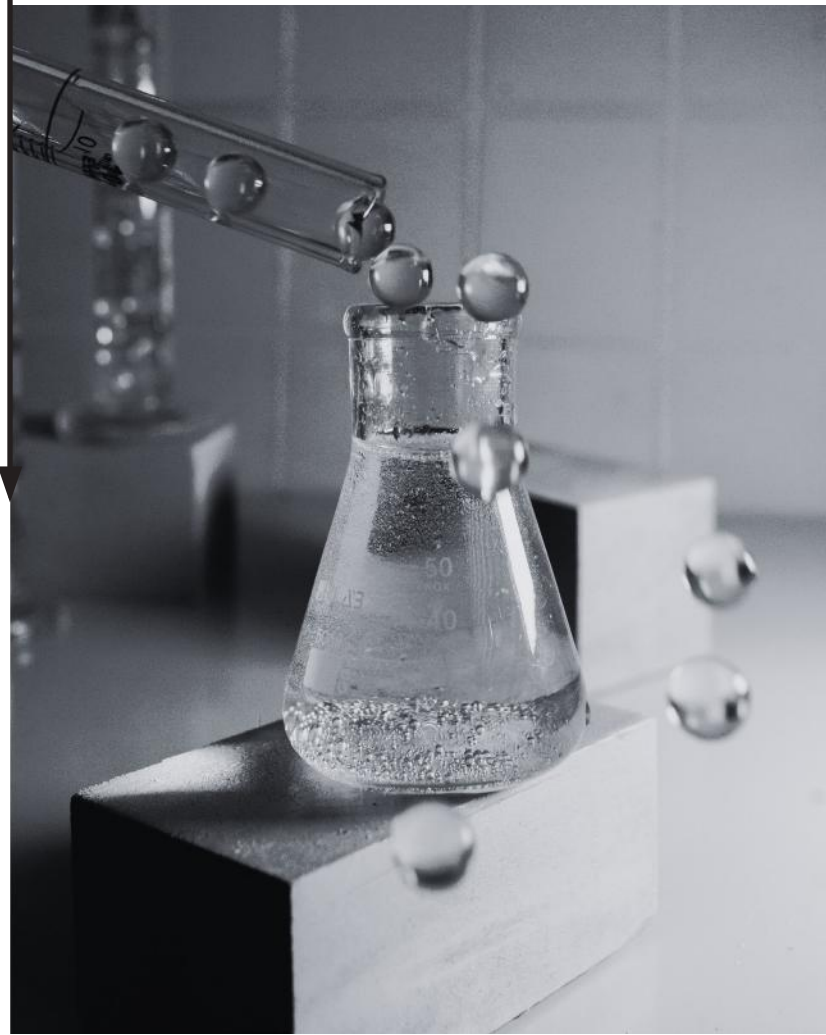
Critical Findings



We undertook a **comprehensive survey**, involving 18,000 patients across Canada, to **assess educational** and **emotional support services**.

Findings revealed that a large group of patients lived over 50 km from their treatment team and many were living below the poverty line. There was a critical shortage of:

1. kidneys for transplantation
2. job retraining for people with end-stage renal disease
3. funds for research





The Kidney Foundation of Canada Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

2004 to 2014

The decade leading up to the Foundation’s 50th Anniversary was a “record” one. We were involved in more than **30 innovations over the past decade** – and we know the involvement was needed.

Today, **1 in 10 Canadians has kidney disease** and millions more are at risk and don’t even know it because the symptoms are often silent. But we’re doing everything possible to face and stare down the challenge of kidney disease – and we’re not doing it alone.

2004 ● ●

Looking Ahead with KRESCENT

We launched the first competition of the newly created **Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program (KRESCENT)** to cultivate the next generation of kidney researchers.

2005 ● ●

We distributed the **“Am I at Risk” brochure** through our Branches and Chapters.

We launched the **KIDNEY CONNECT Peer Support Program**.

We **revitalized our website** www.kidney.ca with expanded and updated content and enhanced features.

March 9, 2006
Inaugural World Kidney Day

2006 ● ●

Offering Financial Support

The BC Branch and BC Transplant Society jointly launched a **3-year pilot project: Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program (LODERP)** to reimburse living kidney and liver donors for expenses related to their gift of life, such as travel, accommodation, and loss of income. This BC pilot project was used as a model to develop and implement similar programs across the country.

2007 ● ●

The **Kidney Health Centre** was piloted in Ontario to screen participants for risk factors for kidney disease.

2007 ● ●

Working with Aboriginal Community

The Manitoba Branch launched the **Island Lake Project**, a curriculum designed for primary and secondary disease prevention, to help address the growing incidence of kidney disease in the Aboriginal community.



2007

A National Conference

We hosted **Horizons 2015**, a national research consensus conference to define research directions for the Canadian kidney health community and describe areas where capacity building is required to support the identified strategic directions.

2009

Growing Public Awareness

To sensitize Canadians to the importance of kidney health, we developed new **PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**. We also launched the **Kidney Stories of Hope Awareness Campaign** to encourage e-testimonials from people personally touched by kidney disease.



2010

The inaugural Kidney March awareness event took place in Alberta.



2011

Offering Transportation

The directors of the **Harrison McCain Foundation** provided \$75,000 to help with transportation in New Brunswick because, for people in rural areas, transport to dialysis is a real struggle.

Launching A Screening Program

We launched a **nationwide targeted screening program** to enable early detection of kidney disease and management of risk factors for the disease.

2007-2008

First set of graduates from the **KRESCENT** Program.

2009

The Great Canadian Kidney Quiz

Our Great Canadian Kidney Quiz revealed that **60% of Canadians** are unable to identify diabetes or high blood pressure as the two major causes of kidney failure.

2010

Emphasis on Organ Donation

We supported the fifth edition of the **CANADIAN TRANSPLANT GAMES**. These Games are critical to nationally recognize the generosity of organ donors, celebrate the renewed health of organ recipients, and sustain the hope of kidney patients desirous of a dialysis-free life.



The Federal Government launched the **Living Donor Paired Exchange Program** across the country.

Making organ donation and transplantation a priority, a form of **Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program (LODERP)**, was made available in every province.

2011

A Nutrition Resource

We launched the **Kidney Community Kitchen**, an online nutrition resource for people living with kidney disease, made possible through a bequest from the James Andrews estate.





2011

Better Knowledge Dissemination

We partnered to support **CANN-NET**, a research network that links together Canadian kidney disease treatment guideline producers, knowledge translation specialists, and knowledge users to improve knowledge dissemination and care of patients with kidney disease.



2013

The National Transplant Program

We partnered with the federal government to support a **MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR** Canadian national transplant research program to address barriers to increase organ and tissue donation in Canada and enhance the survival and quality of life of Canadians who receive transplants.



Alport Syndrome

We joined forces with The Macquarie Group Foundation (Australia) and The Alport Syndrome Foundation (U.S.) and participated in **our first international research competition into Alport Syndrome**.

Gene Therapy

We worked in partnership to develop and fund the **World's First Gene Therapy Clinical Trial for Fabry Disease**.



Proving Financial Support

We provided nearly **\$1 MILLION** in financial support to people living with kidney disease.

2012

Raising Funds



We launched the **NEW CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN** to raise new funds to support initiatives across the country. The Pearson Family were among the first significant contributors with a donation of **\$250,000** over 5 years for research in the area of nephrotic syndrome.

Kidney Cancer Research

We partnered with **Kidney Cancer Canada** and the federal government to support a national research network to promote research and develop resources to **support the care and management of kidney cancer patients**.

2014

New Media Tools

Our social media boasted 8,000 Facebook Friends and 3,000 Twitter followers.

We launched our **branded social network**, taking the Kidney Connect Peer Support Program online **kidneyconnect.ca**.

We launched an **online risk assessment tool** for kidney disease: available in four languages at **www.kidney.ca/risk** (nearly 20,000 visits in six weeks).

Public Service Announcements

We launched public service announcements to promote **awareness of risk factors for kidney disease** and a new online risk assessment tool for kidney disease.





The Kidney Foundation of Canada Celebrates 60 Years

2014 to 2023

Between 2014 and 2023, the Foundation continued to expand its presence via growing digital platforms. Thanks to these and our social networks, we spread awareness about kidney health to newer audiences. Furthermore, we actively made an effort to improve outreach to isolated communities and offer them better access to screening and treatments. This period saw Kidney Foundation advocacy and research efforts grow in many areas, while a new look led us into the 2020s.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization ensured that patients, their families, and caretakers were supported through periods of social isolation and could access programs and educational sessions.

2016
Can-SOLVE-CKD

Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease (Can-SOLVE CKD) was launched. We were a partner since inception.

2017
Transplant Knowledge Grows

Transplantation was the #1 research theme funded by The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Researchers continued to work towards lessening the side effects of anti-rejection medications, improving surgical methods, improving our understanding of organ rejection and our immune systems, the role of parents in supporting youth through their transplantation, and much more.

For more information, please visit:
kidney.ca/research-awards

2018
Working to Eliminate the Burden

We, alongside other committed organizations, funded research aiming to improve current **dialysis methods** and eliminate the burden of kidney disease.

We also released a report on the **Burden of Out-of-Pocket Costs** for Canadians with Kidney Failure.

2020
A New Look

We adopted a bold new image, aiming to bring kidney disease out of the shadows and into the spotlight, and raise the general profile of kidney disease and its impact on the health of Canadians.



2020

Organ and Tissue Donation

We joined **Green Shirt Day** as an official partner in raising awareness of organ and tissue donation.



2021

Support for Living Donors

We implemented a top-up **Wage Replacement Policy** through our engagement with the **Living Donor Circle of Excellence** and became an official partner of the program in 2023, encouraging other companies to follow our lead.

Risk Awareness

Our **Risk Awareness Tool** was upgraded, allowing for a more interactive experience and encouraging Canadians to learn more about their kidney health. By the end of summer 2021, the tool was available in **five languages**: English, French, Mandarin, Chinese, and Punjabi.

The Pandemic

Going Virtual

The impact of COVID-19 brought new virtual program offerings to help those living with kidney disease feel supported and stay connected.



An Updated Nutrition Resource

We re-designed the **Kidney Community Kitchen** site to render it more user-friendly, added a **Meal Planner** tool to help users create personalized menu plans, and added a **nutrition calculator** to allow people to make informed, kidney-friendly nutrition choices.

2022

EDKD and SUGARNSALT

We contributed a total of **\$1 million over five years** (2021-2026), matched by the CIHR, to fund a comprehensive research project called SUGARNSALT to accelerate research into diabetic kidney disease.

Dr. David Cherney, Principal Investigator of the SUGARNSALT project, is dedicated to find ways to **prevent kidney failure and other serious complications in people with type 1 diabetes** as they often do not get to benefit from the treatment innovations available to those with type 2 diabetes.