



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA
BC & YUKON BRANCH

20
23

Our impact



Our Vision

Excellent kidney health, optimal quality of life for those affected by kidney disease, and a cure.

Our Mission

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the leading charity committed to eliminating the burden of kidney disease through:

- Funding and stimulating innovative research for better prevention, treatments and a cure;
- Providing education and support to prevent kidney disease in those at risk and empower those with kidney disease to optimize their health status;
- Advocating for improved access to high quality healthcare;
- Increasing public awareness and commitment to advancing kidney health and organ donation.

We acknowledge that our Branch office is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extend our appreciation for the opportunity to work on these lands.

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Chinese Renal Association (CRA)
Kamloops
MSA/Upper Fraser Valley
North Okanagan
Prince George
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This Impact Report is dedicated to Heather Johnson, beloved staff member and Director of Programs, who sadly passed away April 24, 2023.

Message from the President and Executive Director



Glenn Powers
President

Pia Schindler
Executive Director

We are very pleased to share our 2023 Impact Report with you. Your support has enabled some remarkable impacts on our patient community, while unlocking new possibilities and areas of growth.

A key strategic priority for the Foundation is to reach those persons disproportionately affected by kidney disease, which includes some of the most vulnerable and under-served populations. In 2022, thanks to funding from the BC Government, we were able to launch the Kidney Wellness Hub—a low barrier, patient-centered kidney-customized resource, which is enabling us to support the health and wellbeing of those across our community, including at-risk populations and those living in rural and remote areas.

In 2023, the BC Government provided the Kidney Wellness Hub with an additional \$620,000 in funds to support an Indigenous Outreach Strategy to reach a population that is among those at highest risk for kidney disease. Work is underway with Indigenous community leaders and other healthcare partners and will continue through 2024–2025. The Kidney Wellness Hub has also sparked interest from other stakeholders, wanting to explore how the platform can serve as a gateway to reach more British Columbians, particularly the newly diagnosed who can benefit greatly from early interventions.

A huge thank you to our renal community for sharing the Kidney Wellness Hub with your patients. Our one-year evaluation shows promising findings in terms of the impact this resource is providing to patients across the continuum of care. You can read more about those early findings in this report.

The Report highlights our continued work in promoting living kidney donation and the removal of financial barriers through the Living Donor Circle of Excellence initiative, in partnership with the American Society of Transplantation and the Canadian Society of Transplantation. The Branch held its second annual event to celebrate those organizations that put HR policies in place to cover wage loss for employees who choose to be a living donor. We were thrilled to have many leading organizations, including the BC Government and Simon Fraser University, step up and join the Living Donor Circle of Excellence last year. In addition, the BC Government provided \$100,000 in funding to the Branch to help raise awareness about the initiative and bring other organizations on board.



We continued to fund leading-edge Canadian researchers and their important work to not only improve the quality of life for kidney patients but to also give hope for a cure one day. Our core Branch programs and services were there to meet the growing needs of those we serve, including programs that help address equitable access to care by providing accommodations to those needing to travel to Lower Mainland for transplant care.

Advocacy and awareness building was also an area of focus in 2023. We hosted a very successful Networking Breakfast at the BC Legislature with MLAs from all parties across BC, and met with key officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Services in the Yukon. We are also grateful for our partnerships with key stakeholders, including BC Renal, BC Transplant and Can-SOLVE CKD Network. Our collaboration on issues important to the kidney community and our work together on public awareness campaigns grew significantly.

Volunteer development was also a priority. A National Volunteer Advisory Working Committee was created, and a National Volunteer Program Manager was hired to help us ensure that our most valued resource—our volunteers—are supported and engaged today and into the future.

None of this would be possible, of course, without the unwavering support of our donors and corporate partners involved in our signature fundraisers, including Kidney Walk, Kidney Car, Kidney Gala, our inaugural Tee Up for Transplant Golf Tournament in Kelowna, as well as many other community fundraising initiatives that take place throughout the year.

To our kidney community—our patients, their families, volunteers, donors, supporters and staff—thank you for all you do, and for helping us build a stronger foundation for kidney patients! It takes a community to make this kind of impact. ■

Kidney Foundation Strategic Priorities at a Glance

- We will remain steadfast in our commitment to increasing revenue and investing in research and programs to continue to improve the quality of life for kidney patients.
- We will work to ensure the under-served and marginalized kidney patients have equitable access to programs, services and treatments.
- We will continue to shine a light on a disease that too often flies under the radar and leverage our new brand to expand public and government awareness of kidney disease.
- And finally, as a volunteer-driven organization, we will continue to focus on volunteer development and support and grow our most valued resource.

Thank you for supporting kidney patients and their families.

Huy ch q'u

衷心感謝你們對腎臟病人及其家屬的支持。

ਗੁਰਦਾ ਮਰੀਜ਼ਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਏਟ ਲਈ ਧੰਨਵਾਦ.

Patient Impact

Improving Quality of Life and Hope for Kidney Patients

The Kidney Foundation provides a range of programs, services and initiatives to help improve the quality of life and meet the diverse needs of those living with kidney disease. Part of our mandate is to also ensure marginalized and vulnerable populations have equitable access to treatment through the identification of needs and gaps within the kidney community.

Programs and Initiatives that Improve Kidney Health



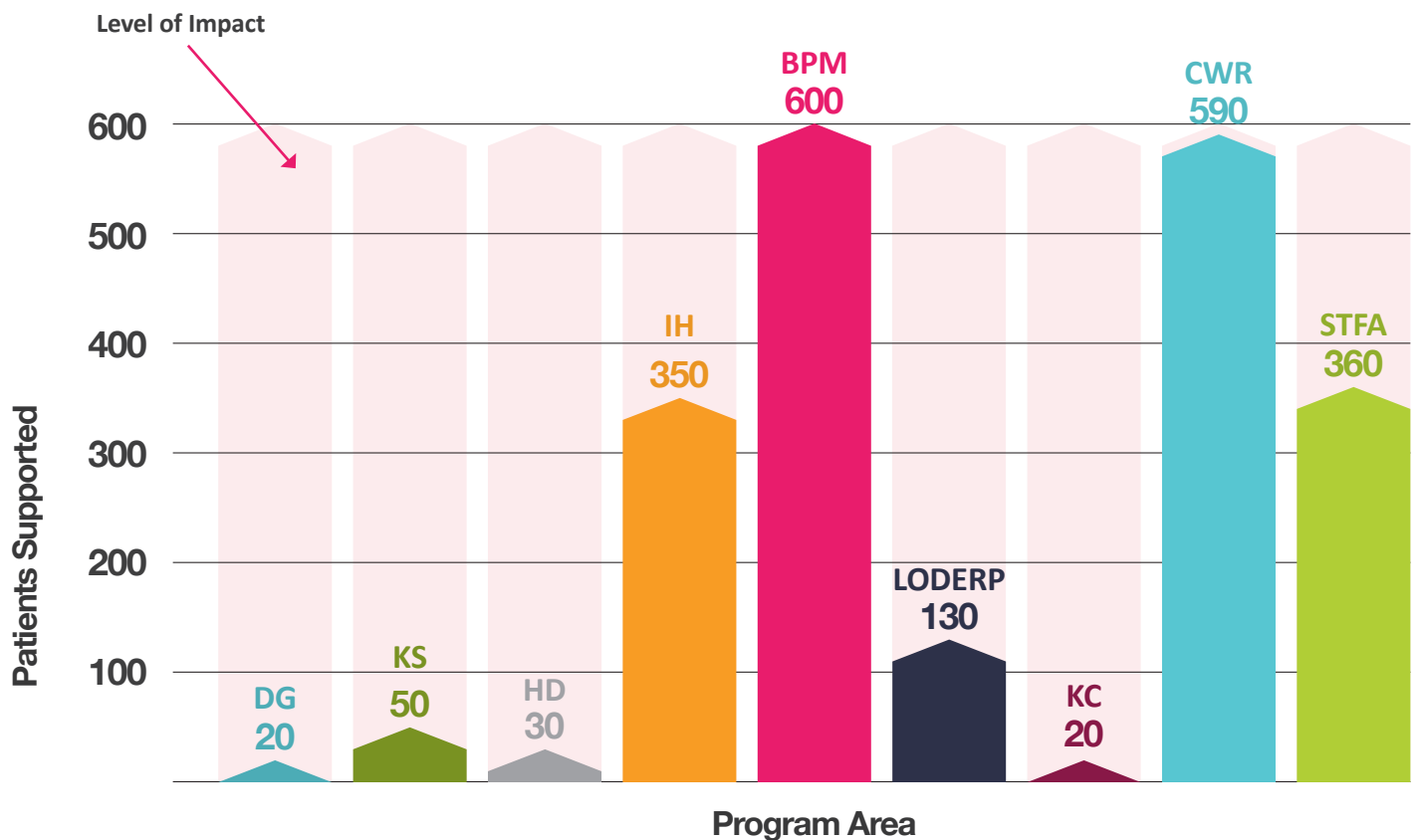
Enabling equitable access to treatment by removing financial barriers

“I have worked at a Kidney Care Clinic for the last four years. I have been continuously appreciative of the ways that The Kidney Foundation improves patients’ quality of life by lessening their financial burdens. I have been able to request grants for a wide array of purposes that positively impact patients’ health and wellbeing. I have been able to

assist patients in need to access crucial dental care, needed medical devices, assistance with moving expenses, medication costs and so forth. I am very grateful to The Kidney Foundation and its donors for helping persons with kidney disease in countless, immeasurable ways!”

Renal Social Worker in Victoria

Patients Accessing Programs and Resources that Help Improve Their Kidney Health



Broad initiatives can reach more and help many.
 Specific programs can have a significant impact and change the life of an individual.

Legend

- DG: Dental Grants
- KS: Kidney Suites and Kidney Condo
- HD: Home Dialysis Training Expenses
- IH: Information Hotline
- BPM: Blood Pressure Monitoring Initiative
- LODERP: Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program
- KC: Kidney Kids Camp
- CWR: Class, Webinar and One-on-One Registrations
- STFA: Short-Term Financial Assistance Program

The Vital Role of Peer Mentorship

Building Social Connections to Support Kidney Health

Living with chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a journey fraught with challenges, both physical and emotional. From managing symptoms to navigating treatment options, individuals with CKD often find themselves in a complex maze of healthcare decisions and lifestyle adjustments. In such a scenario, the value of one-on-one peer mentoring cannot be overstated. The Kidney Foundation offers programs that provide invaluable peer mentorship support, guidance, and companionship to those grappling with the realities of CKD.

One of the most challenging aspects of living with CKD is the sense of isolation that often accompanies the diagnosis. Friends and family may struggle to understand the complexities of the condition, leading to feelings of loneliness and alienation. One-on-one conversations offer a lifeline in the face of isolation and uncertainty, pairing individuals who are newly diagnosed or struggling to cope with CKD with those who have firsthand experience living with the condition.

In 2023, we had 35 mentor-mentee matches. Mentors receive numerous hours of training.



Greg Fisher
Mentor

Hearing from a Mentor

Greg Fisher was first diagnosed 15 years ago with Berger disease, an autoimmune disease that can damage the kidneys. His eGFR slowly declined and three years ago went on PD and a transplant became the only option. In February of 2023, he became a peer mentor, and in August of last year he received a kidney transplant.

What are some of your own experiences that you lean on as a mentor?

The realization when you truly understand that your life will never be the same. For me, it was not when I was first diagnosed with CKD but some years later when I could see my world getting smaller. It took me a while to learn that you have to be your own advocate and at the same time be able to accept help in dealing with the disease. The health system has challenges but the medical professionals I have encountered have been incredible. It is normal to have emotional highs and very low lows.

I feel a stronger connection to the kidney community and the personal satisfaction of trying to help others in my own small way.

What have you gained from being a mentor in this program?

First, the Branch offers a very good training program. It helps that there is a small team of passionate and dedicated people that administer it. Through this training it gives a chance to reflect and understand more about yourself. I have learned techniques that are helping improve my communication skill sets.

Are you able to provide an example of how you helped a mentee through a conversation?

It might appear to be simple from the outside, but for those who are pre-transplant or pre-dialysis things like navigating a hospital parking lot, what accommodation options look like, and what challenges they may be facing can be daunting. It may seem minor, but knowing what to do and what you'll face makes a huge difference. It was important to emphasize certain things like following the nutritional recommendations from the dietitians where possible, or the importance in the case of dialysis not to take shortcuts in cleanliness, etc.

What benefits can a mentor gain from participating in this program?

Mentees have expressed on numerous occasions how appreciative they are with our conversations and that I have helped put them at ease, which is certainly rewarding. A couple of the mentees have kept in touch with me as they go along their journey and have helped provide me with information that is useful for my journey with this lifelong disease as well.

Has anything surprised you about the program?

How truly appreciative most of the mentees are, how raw some of the conversations can be. How strong people are overall when faced with adversity, and how much stronger we are as a kidney community. These conversations are also good reminders for me to continue working on being as healthy as I can be while dealing with this lifelong disease.

Hearing from a Mentee

Maya Calder has been living with reduced kidney function for several years, and recently started the process of finding a living donor. It has been a tough journey, but joining the Peer Support and Engagement Group and participating in the one-on-one peer mentoring have helped.

What motivated you to sign up for the one-on-one peer mentoring?

I had watched so many webinars and other information sessions and thought I'd finally decided what was best for me in regards to dialysis or kidney transplant. But I was actually always changing my mind and not knowing what was best to choose. I needed to talk to someone who had gone through the same situation and internal debates.

Did the conversations with your mentor help you deal more effectively with your challenges?

I've decided I want to receive a living kidney donor, so my phone call with my mentor talked about that. I felt like I was speaking to a friend on that call. I immediately recognized her name as someone once on The Kidney Foundation's TV show, Kidney PLUGGED IN, so I was very comfortable talking with her. It was helpful to hear about her journey and share my thoughts. It also helped me with some ideas on the process of finding a living donor.



As much as I hate this disease and what it does to people, I have met many incredible kidney warriors that inspire me with their strength and positivity.

Would you use this program again or recommend this program to a friend?

Yes, most definitely. I'd recommend to anyone that speaking with a person who gets it and who has been there themselves is incredibly helpful. I can see myself definitely using it more for sure. I have already spoken to three different mentors on three different issues. It's very helpful if you are dealing with a particular situation.

You said The Kidney Foundation's Peer Support and Engagement groups have also been really helpful. Can you elaborate?

Yes, I especially enjoy attending the virtual peer engagement group. I look forward to seeing the faces that return and getting to know the new ones as well. It's a time of camaraderie and sharing, so that's my favourite group. A recent session was especially beneficial for me and allayed my fears in regards to my lower eGFR. I heard from two people in the group who really helped calm me down. ■

Removing Barriers to Transplantation

Dr. John Gill and Robin Gill co-host second annual COE reception



In 2023, the BC & Yukon Branch hosted its second annual **Living Donor Circle of Excellence (COE)** reception to celebrate organizations that joined the employer recognition program, a program which helps promote living donation and the removal of financial barriers to living donors. The **BC Government, Simon Fraser University and Beedie** were just a few of the organizations that stepped up and implemented HR policies that ensure employees who choose to be a living donor are covered for wage loss during their recovery period, at a minimum of 80% for four weeks.

Real estate developer and philanthropist Ryan Beedie implemented the Living Donor COE at Beedie in 2022. “When I heard about this program, I thought it was brilliant,” he said. “To think there are people who want to give the gift of life but can’t due to wage restraint—that is heartbreaking.” The program was easy to set up and Beedie employees were enthusiastic about its implementation. He encouraged other companies to give the Living Donor COE serious consideration. “Be an employer that shows your team that you care about the greater society. Raise awareness and bring the conversation around organ donation to the proverbial water cooler.”

Living organ donation typically includes a four-to six-week recovery period. Many donors take unpaid absences or use their vacation and sick leave during this period, so employers showing this kind of support to their employees truly reduces the financial burden incurred by those who wish to give the gift of life. Of the 284 kidney transplants performed in 2023 in BC, living donors accounted for 65 of the transplants.*

*BC Transplant Statistics.

The Kidney Foundation received \$100,000 in funding from the BC Government in 2023 to help build out the COE initiative.

Since its inception, the COE program—a partnership with the American Society of Transplantation and the Canadian Society of Transplantation—has seen 175 participating companies covering 2.5 million employees across Canada and the United States. To date, 149 employees have been able to take advantage of this program. ■

“Living donors are heroes amongst us; their gift is lifesaving for patients in need of a kidney or liver transplant and has a huge positive impact on society. Patients facing life-threatening diseases are able to live normal lives, raise their families, and participate in their communities. By supporting living organ donors, we are also building stronger communities.”

Dr. John Gill



Leading organizations recognized for helping to remove financial barriers to organ donation

For a complete list of all organizations in BC who have joined the Living Donor Circle of Excellence, visit the [COE website](#).

Kidney Wellness Hub Supports Patient Wellbeing

The Kidney Wellness Hub was created to address the needs of the kidney community, with input from patients, caregivers, and renal stakeholders. Kidney disease impacts a patient's physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

A survey conducted by the BC & Yukon Branch in 2020 highlighted feelings from patients of increased stress, loneliness and a need to feel connected to a community. Many patients also reported economic challenges, citing a need for low barrier, easy access to information to help them maintain a healthy lifestyle, which is critical to their kidney health and mental wellbeing.

In 2022, with funding from the BC government, the Branch launched the **Kidney Wellness Hub**, which is unique to other online health and wellness platforms.

The Kidney Wellness Hub is an interactive platform that celebrates the diversity of the kidney community with customized wellness and lifestyle tools to support patients, their care partners and living donors with their kidney health and overall quality of life.

For the newly diagnosed, a healthy lifestyle may slow down the progression of kidney disease or even avoid kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant. Interactive classes, and information and resources are available in the areas of Staying Active, Eating Well, Mental Wellbeing and Socially Connecting. [Link to video.](#)



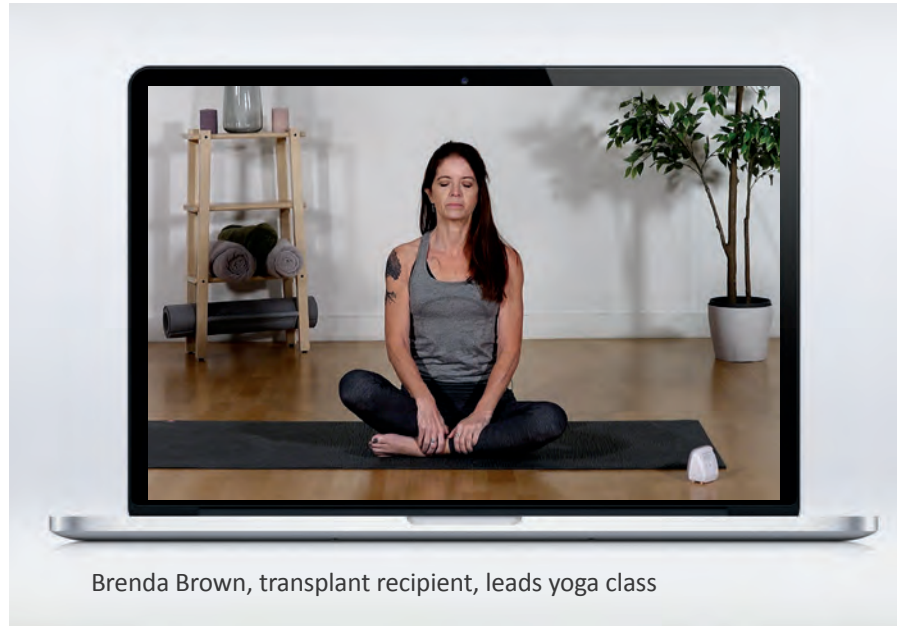
Dietitians Dani Renouf and Anja Webster host “Come Cook with Us” classes

“I really enjoyed the cooking class on foods to celebrate Chinese New Year and found it beneficial to hear that foods are to be enjoyed rather than restricted when maintaining a kidney diet. I liked to hear about potassium, salt and fibers and ways to substitute, decrease etc. Practical while informative.”

Kidney Wellness Hub member

Early Findings Show Positive Impact on Patient Wellbeing

An evaluation of the Kidney Wellness Hub was conducted a year after its launch. Early findings show 11,000 patients and others from the kidney community engaged with the platform in 2023 and that it is having a positive impact on their overall wellbeing. For example, ongoing survey results highlight that 100% of respondents using the Kidney Wellness Hub saw increased motivation, confidence and understanding to care for kidney health.



Brenda Brown, transplant recipient, leads yoga class

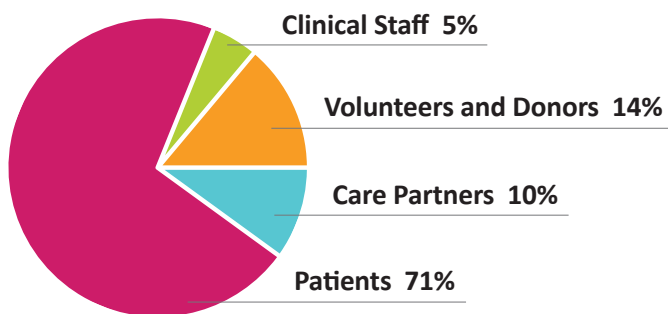
Identifying Needs of the Underserved Populations

Continuing to reach populations who can benefit most from the Kidney Wellness Hub will be a key focus in 2024–2025, including a specific focus on Indigenous patient populations.

The Branch received \$620,000 in funding from the BC Government over two years to develop a strategy to reach and support healthy lifestyles and wellbeing of Indigenous kidney patients and their care partners, living organ donors, and those at-risk. Work is underway, and conversations have begun with Indigenous community leaders, First Nations Health Authority, BC Renal, and Can-SOLVE. ■

Who's Using the Kidney Wellness Hub?

Registration Survey (n=275)



“The benefits of exercise and positive lifestyle habits cannot be overstated for kidney patients across the continuum of care. I tell my patients that movement is medicine and I refer them to the Kidney Wellness Hub as it’s a comprehensive resource that can support patients, including those with low mobility.”

Dr. Megan Borkum, nephrologist and clinical researcher

Patient Impact Snapshot

125 exercise and movement videos helped thousands in the kidney community stay active.

79 coaching sessions, led by a kidney health professional and certified coach, supported patients on their wellness journey.

64 patients registered for kidney-friendly cooking classes, interacting in real time with the dietitians and their peers.

86 patients connected through group and one-on-one sessions, providing them with an opportunity to talk to others with shared lived experiences and meet new friends through online social activities.

Advocacy and Awareness



Public transit bus wrapped for Kidney Health Month

Campaigns Spark Important Conversations

While raising kidney health and organ donor awareness and delivering education are year-around activities, March and April are designated months when the BC & Yukon Branch works with stakeholders and volunteers to really highlight our messaging.

The Branch once again partnered with BC Renal during **Kidney Health Month** in March, developing a public health awareness campaign called *Could you be the 1 in 10 with kidney disease?* The campaign was promoted through various media platforms, as well as transit ads in the Lower Mainland. British Columbians were encouraged to take an online risk assessment for kidney disease and to speak to their doctor if they fell into a high-risk category.

April marks **Organ Donor Awareness Month**, and April 7th is **Green Shirt Day**, a day dedicated to raising organ donor awareness by the generous organ donation act of Logan Boulet, one of the sixteen who lost their lives in the Humbolt Broncos bus crash in April 2018.

The Kidney Foundation was proud to once again be a community partner with the Green Shirt Day campaign. Together, we engaged the kidney community to create a sea of green on social media and take the message into the community to talk to one's family and friends about their wishes for organ donation.

New National PSA

The Kidney Foundation of Canada launched a public awareness campaign in 2023 entitled, "With You", and a new Public Service Announcement aired on several media platforms across the country including TV, radio, and digital, sharing that The Kidney Foundation is with Canadians for life on their journey with kidney disease, and that they are not alone. Volunteers from across the country also shared their own stories through print and video. The campaign invites Canadians to learn more about the Foundation at [kidney.ca](https://www.kidney.ca) and how they can get involved. ■

Putting Kidney Health in the Spotlight

Kidney disease is affecting more and more Canadians at an alarming rate and there is no cure. To address this serious public health issue, The Kidney Foundation of Canada has embarked on a three-year National Chronic Kidney Disease Strategy to create a broad-based public health awareness framework with federal and provincial governments to help demonstrate incidence, prevalence and impact.

The Branch engaged in various provincial advocacy efforts, meeting with key government officials in both the BC Ministry of Health and Yukon Ministry of Health and Social Services to help advance opportunities to support those living with chronic kidney disease and the newly diagnosed.

The Branch held an MLA Breakfast together with patients at the BC Legislature in March. More than 35 Members of the BC Legislature were in attendance, including Minister of Health, Adrian Dix; Shadow Minister for Health, Senior Services and Long-Term Care, Shirley Bond; and House Leader for BC Greens, Adam Olsen. Key Branch initiatives were highlighted and Dr. John Antonsen, nephrologist, BC Renal Senior Medical Lead, Provincial Quality and Networks, provided an overview of the prevalence of kidney disease and its impacts. ■

The BC & Yukon Branch held an MLA event at the BC Legislature to raise kidney health awareness



Reaching Canadians at High Risk for Kidney Disease

The BC & Yukon Branch employs multiple strategies to reach and build awareness and support among those populations at higher risk for kidney disease, including people of South Asian, Asian, Indigenous, African or Hispanic descent.



Kidney PLUGGED IN guest host in action

Kidney TV Show Educates with Multicultural Content

Eight years and 240 episodes later, Kidney PLUGGED IN—a 30-minute TV show developed by the Branch, which includes patient stories, interviews with renal experts, and the latest in kidney research, airing on SHAW Direct and SHAW Multicultural—continues to bring kidney health programming into the homes of Canadians. This platform has enabled The Kidney Foundation to reach audiences it might not have otherwise reached.

Through our multicultural episodes in Mandarin, Cantonese, Punjabi, Korean, and Vietnamese, we have been able to bring awareness to those who may not have realized they are at higher risk for developing kidney disease.

To continue its strategy as a platform to reach those viewers with important kidney health information in a lighthearted way, the Branch is conducting focus groups with the public and kidney community in 2024. ■

“Multicultural programming is extremely important in our communities where language barriers often create a sense of isolation for new immigrants and first-generation Canadians. By providing access to shows like Kidney PLUGGED IN, not only do we bring awareness to populations that would benefit from the content, but we also bring a sense of community and connection across our platform.”

Jim Reis, Coordinating Producer, Multicultural Channel



Community advocates attend Starry Night Benefit to help raise awareness and support for how South Asian community is impacted by kidney disease and organ donation

Advocates in South Asian Community Raise Awareness and Support of Kidney Health and Organ Donation

To help address how kidney disease and organ donation impacts the South Asian community—a community at high risk for kidney disease—the BC & Yukon Branch held its second annual **Starry Night Benefit**. More than 200 guests, including community and business leaders, political dignitaries, healthcare professionals, patients, and family members came together to share their inspirational stories, knowledge and support.

Deep Rai, 34, was one of those patients. A new dad, who was recently diagnosed with kidney disease, Deep was on dialysis and hoping for a kidney transplant. A long-time community volunteer, Deep stepped up to share his story and support a cause that hits close to home, and also provided hope as he announced that his friend had been approved to be his living donor.

Members from the medical community, including Dr. Jag Gill, Medical Director of Kidney Transplant Program at St. Paul's Hospital and Associate Professor of Medicine at UBC, shared the importance of removing barriers to transplantation, which is seen among those at highest risk for kidney disease. The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance, both highlighted the importance of this community event, while Minister Conroy also shared her personal story as a living kidney donor.

The evening shone a light on these issues and raised funds to support key local programs and services to help improve the quality of life for patients. ■

Donor Impact

Our Growing Giving Community

Without our generous donors, the BC & Yukon Branch would not be in a position to make such a meaningful difference to the lives of the many people living with kidney disease. Combined with government grants, contributions in 2023 neared **\$5 million**. From grassroots fundraising, to major gifts and bequests, our giving community continues to grow from strength to strength.

Chinook Therapeutics Kidney Walk team celebrates their success



Community Initiatives

Community events are the backbone of The Kidney Foundation's grassroots fundraising, and our longest standing event, **Kidney Walk**, was back in person for the first time in three years since the pandemic. Supported by volunteers across BC and the Yukon, hundreds of participants dusted off their walking shoes and passion to get friends, family, and colleagues in action at eighteen Kidney Walk locations. As the biggest Foundation event across Canada, Kidney Walk does more than raise funds, it brings the community together and provides hope to loved ones living with kidney disease.

2023 Kidney Walk Facts at a Glance

- Raised over **\$242,000**
- **36 Sponsors**
- **Celebrated 15th Anniversary!**
- **18 Kidney Walks**
- **79 Teams**
- **470 Participants**

“The Kidney Walk is near and dear to my family and friends because my youngest has been fighting with kidney issues his whole life. Joining a passionate community with a shared belief in doing all we can, to provide love, hope and support to those living with kidney disease.”

Ashley Berg



Golfers enjoy inaugural Tee Up for Transplant event

The inaugural **Tee Up for Transplant** charity golf tournament was launched in Kelowna with great success. From participants to sponsors, everyone came together for a day of enjoyment while raising over \$43,000 in funds to support lifesaving research, patient services, and public education programs. Organizing committee member, Craig Mihaychuk, had been involved with arranging golf events for many years and noticed a need in the Okanagan Valley for something new and fresh for fundraising. “The Okanagan offers such beauty that we thought hosting an outdoor event like a golf tournament would showcase our beautiful area and raise some valuable funds. Our first-year tournament in 2023 was a huge success with the help of great people along the way.” He envisions this to be an exciting annual event for The Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC & Yukon Branch. ■

“When my husband got sick in Mexico and needed a kidney transplant, we quickly learned the need for increased awareness of kidney disease and organ transplants. I knew I wanted to give back somehow and helping to organize a golf tournament to raise funds and awareness for The Kidney Foundation was a perfect way.”

Lori Cunningham



Honourary Gala Chair, Dr. Adeera Levin, addresses audience at the Kidney Gala

Kidney Gala

The annual Kidney Gala was also back in person for the first time since the pandemic, with Honourary Chair, Dr. Adeera Levin providing vision and inspiration for the night. Hosted once again by the dynamic duo, Sophie Lui (Global TV) and Fred Lee (Vancouver's "Man about Town"), 275 guests helped raise a record amount of \$440,000 in funds through donations and sponsorship.

For more than a decade, the Kidney Gala has brought leaders in the kidney community together and this year was no different. Added to the excitement of the evening, was a special announcement of \$720,000 in funding made by Katrine Conroy, Minister of Finance and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, in support of the Kidney Wellness Hub and the Living Donor Circle of Excellence. Celebrating the theme "Courage", researchers, philanthropists and members of the Government had the rare opportunity to come together and hear courageous patient and living donor stories, including the journeys of **Alexis and Rob MacKay-Dunn** and **Skully White**. It was an evening full of celebration, entertainment, and shared purpose.

Michelle Zuccaro of Macdonald's Renal Pharmacy shared that "being a supporter of the Kidney Gala holds significant importance for me as it serves as a cornerstone in advocating for those affected by kidney disease. I believe in the power of collective action to help alleviate the burdens faced by individuals and their families. The Kidney Gala stands as a beacon of hope for those navigating the complexities of kidney disease."

The evening was a success in no small part due to our 2023 Kidney Gala sponsors: Macdonald's Renal Pharmacy, Chinook Therapeutics, Otsuka Canada, BC Maritime Employers Association, Radius Recycling and Pick-n-Pull, RGF Integrated Wealth Management, Beedie, National Bank of Canada, Jeff Scoten Group, Canoe Financial, and GSK. ■



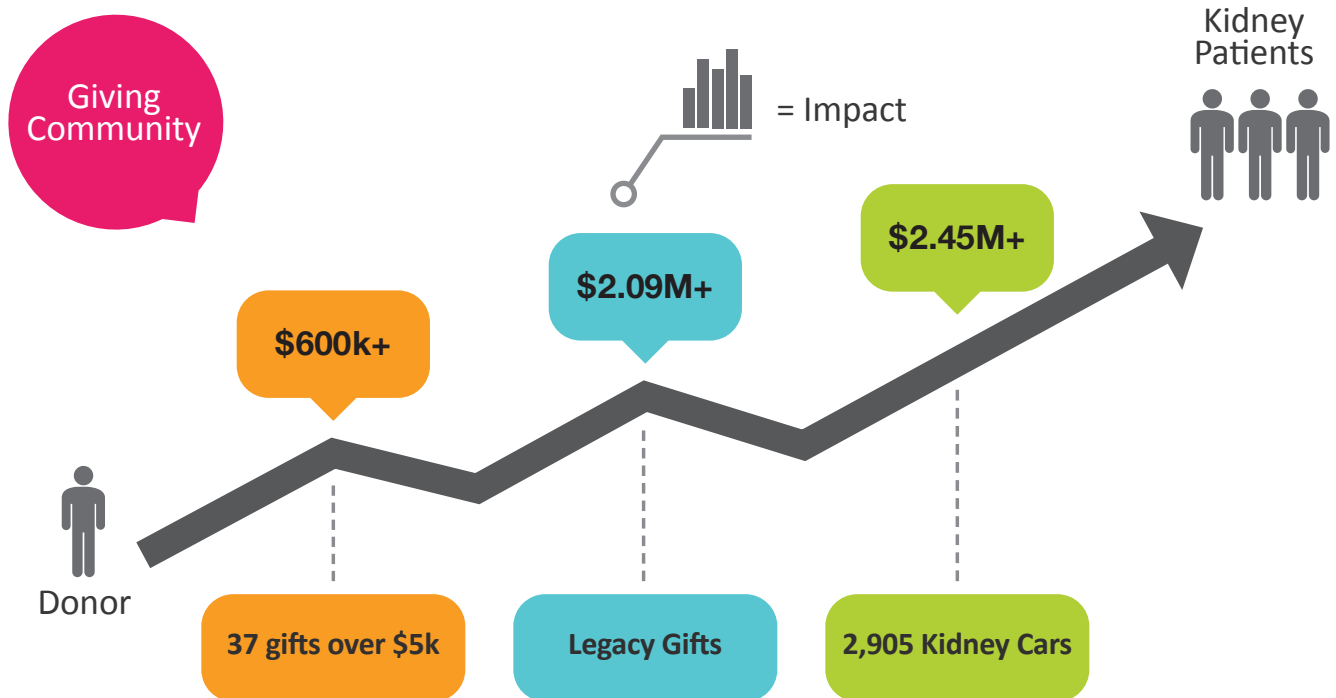
The Kidney Gala is a fantastic event and an important cause that we proudly support. By raising public awareness and providing financial support for organ donation and the fight against kidney disease, we work together to improve the lives of patients and make a real impact.

Andrea and Jeff Scoten
National Bank of Canada, Jeff Scoten Group

Our Giving Community

Events like the Kidney Gala, Kidney Walk, and other initiatives not only bring in funding to support programs and services for kidney patients, they also raise awareness of the impact such giving can make. In addition, they inspire people to donate in other ways, which ensures stability from year to year and enables the BC & Yukon Branch to continue important programs and services. Our diligent staff processed more than **13,500 transactions** over the course of the year. From one-time donations to monthly pledges and legacy gifts, donors make a significant impact. In 2023, the Branch received its most ever in legacy giving. ■

Donors In Action



Financials

The Kidney Foundation of Canada (BC & Yukon Branch) for the year ended on December 31, 2023.

The data on this page has been extracted and summarized from the reviewed financial statements. Detailed financial statements (including Notes) are available from the BC & Yukon Branch office.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2023 \$	2022 \$
REVENUE		
Contributions	4,874,886	3,586,497
Bequests	2,095,515	744,872
Investment income allocated to operations	37,262	29,094
	7,007,663	4,360,463
Fundraising expenditures	2,047,217	1,512,857
Net revenue	4,960,446	2,847,606
EXPENDITURES		
Mission		
Research	-	90
Programs and services including organ donation	1,216,958	1,194,361
Government and community relations	415,912	363,808
Foundation and volunteer development	243,628	90,949
	1,876,498	1,649,208
Management and administration	210,859	214,128
Contribution to national research, programs and support services	2,873,089	984,270
	4,960,446	2,847,606

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2023 (Unaudited)	2023 \$	2022 \$
ASSETS		
Current		
Cash	3,401,231	2,597,637
Interest and sundry receivable (Note 8)	810,947	626,408
Prepaid expenses	42,091	56,049
	4,254,269	3,280,094
Capital assets (Note 3)	10,227	13,255
	4,264,496	3,293,349
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 8)	237,506	214,733
Deferred contributions (Note 4)		
Living Organ Donor expense reimbursement program	75,493	90,311
Jackie Family fund	37,989	37,989
Other	816,647	932,300
Deferred capital assets	1,273	2,167
	1,168,908	1,277,500
FUND BALANCES		
Invested in capital assets	8,954	11,088
Internally restricted for use in future years (Note 5)	605,909	605,909
Attributed to The Kidney Foundation of Canada	2,480,725	1,398,852
	3,095,588	2,015,849
	4,264,496	3,293,349

Contractual obligations (Note 6)

Approved by the Branch Board



The Hard Facts About Kidney Disease

- One in 10 Canadians have kidney disease.
- There is no cure for kidney disease.
- In 2022, kidney disease was the 11th leading cause of death in Canada.
- 45% of new kidney disease patients are under the age of 65.
- Symptoms may not develop until permanent damage has occurred.
- The leading causes of kidney disease include diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure.
- Those with a family history of kidney disease or individuals from certain ethnic backgrounds, including South Asian, Asian, African, and Indigenous are also at greater risk for kidney disease.
- Having kidney disease increases the risk for heart disease.
- The earlier someone knows if they have compromised kidneys the higher the chance of preventing or delaying the onset of kidney failure, and the need for dialysis or a kidney transplant.
- Almost 80% of Canadians waiting for an organ transplant are waiting for a kidney.

Source: kidney.ca



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA
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