

20-Month Old Boy Inspires Community to Rally for Change for Brain Cancer

Calgary, AB – Every hour of every day, more than one Canadian learns they have a brain tumour. It's a diagnosis that changes life in an instant – for the patient and their loved ones. For one Calgary family, this instant was one of shock. In March of this year, 20-month old Kaiden was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma brain tumour, a brain cancer that accounts for 18% of all pediatric brain tumours.

For Kaiden's parents Eric and Ashley, an important way to cope with this diagnosis has been to declare their intention to raise \$100,000 for brain tumour research and patient programs through Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Their efforts will kick off on May 23, 2015 at the Calgary Spring Sprint at Woodlands School & Fish Creek Pathway at 88 Woodgreen Drive SW. This annual event brings together the local community – it is anticipated more than 300 participants will attend – to raise critical funds to fight the disease.

Kaiden's parents explain their perspective on what they are currently facing as a family: "We believe we are going through this for a reason and it is because our son Kaiden is strong enough to overcome it and many others will benefit because of his journey. Kaiden is an inspiration to us and we hope he can be one to many others as well."

The family goes on to say, "After the initial shock, our first instinct was to help our boy through this time and then to make sure as many other people benefit from Kaiden's journey as possible. The support we have received from friends and family has been absolutely overwhelming and we are grateful for this." Since Kaiden's diagnosis in March, they have completely removed his brain tumour and he just finishing up his first round of chemotherapy treatment to clear out the tumour which spread to his spinal cord and any other cancerous cells which might remain. Kaiden is doing really well, making many friends at the oncology unit and there is a great plan in place to get him healthy again. Eric says, "our *Team Kaiden* mantra is: 'with every day in every way, Kaiden is getting better and better.'"

All funds raised by the Calgary Spring Sprint go towards programming like the local support group, pediatric family program BrainWAVE as well the annual educational conference, resources including handbooks and a storybook. Funds also go towards critical brain tumour research. "Supporting patients and families and searching for the cause of and a cure for brain tumours is our focus," explains Carl Cadogan, Chief Executive Officer of Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.

Its families like Kaiden's, all across Canada who are leading this movement to end brain tumours, because they know so well, the importance of change: Eric says, "If there's one thing I've learned in these last two months, it's that I want to do everything I can so that no other parents hear the words, 'your child has a brain tumour'."

About Calgary Spring Sprint

When: Saturday, May 23, 2015; Opening ceremonies: 9:45am

Where: Woodlands School & Fish Creek Pathway at 88 Woodgreen Drive SW

What: 2.5km or 5km walk/fun run to raise funds and awareness for brain tumours

To register or learn more: www.springsprint.ca

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada offers hope to those affected through education and a national network of support programs. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada also funds brain tumour research through annual grants, fellowships and research studentships. All activities are supported solely by the dedication and determination of donors - individuals, corporate sponsors and foundations. Since the organization's founding in 1982, more than \$4 million has been directed to brain tumour research. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website:

www.BrainTumour.ca.

About the Calgary Spring Sprint – Why do we walk?

Calgary Spring Sprint is part of the national movement to end brain tumours. In 2015 there are walks taking place from Victoria to Halifax. The national goal is to raise \$1.7 million. By signing up and fundraising as part of a brain tumour walk, patients, survivors, family and friends support the specialized programs and resources that empower patients to be their own best health care advocates and fund the ground-breaking research that will find a cure for the disease.

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For further information or to coordinate attendance at the event, contact:

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