

How do you battle the unknown and uncontrolled?

Olivia Hughes faces each day as a brain tumour survivor – a new perspective on her life, she says

Edmonton, Alberta, May 5, 2016 – For MacEwan University student Olivia Hughes, every day brings its challenges as the 20-year-old contends with vision loss, epileptic seizures and a cane to accommodate her mobility needs. Olivia is a brain tumour survivor – something she says she only recently came to identify with, thanks in part to the Edmonton Brain Tumour Walk, which takes place this year on Saturday, May 28. “After seeing all the people – the sheer number of survivors at the Walk – that’s when I understood that this disease affects all kinds of people. That I was part of this community too.”

That acknowledgement for Olivia began two years ago and as the 2016 Brain Tumour Walk approaches, she’s not only registered to fundraise and participate, she’s also volunteering with the event committee. “This is my third year doing the Walk and, for me, I do this because I love that Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada isn’t just about research. The support groups, the handbooks – that’s all important too!”

Olivia was first diagnosed with temporal lobe epilepsy at the age of nine, after almost a year of seizures. But it wasn’t until she was 11, and after dozens of scans and tests, that Olivia and her mom would learn the true cause of the epilepsy: a tumour deep inside Olivia’s brain.

Today, almost 10 years since doctors discovered the inoperable brain tumour, Olivia has learned to live with her “new normal” but it hasn’t been easy. “It feels like no one knows or understands what’s going on or how to treat you. The Walk empowered me to learn more about my brain tumour, and I finally felt justified that this is actually a big deal to live with.”

The 2016 Edmonton Brain Tumour Walk is scheduled for Saturday, May 28th at Hawrelak Park. Opening Ceremonies and Brain Tumour Survivor Recognition begin at 9:45am. Online registration ([link](#)) is encouraged; there is no entry fee to participate. The Edmonton Brain Tumour Walk is family-friendly and non-competitive, and features 2.5km and 5km routes.

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Media Release, cont'd

About the Brain Tumour Walks

Every day in Canada, 27 people are diagnosed with a brain tumour. That's 10,000 new diagnoses each year. By signing up and fundraising as part of a Brain Tumour Walk, patients, survivors, family and friends join the nationwide movement to end brain tumours. Their efforts support Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's specialized 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. For more than two decades, Brain Tumour Walks (formerly Spring Sprints) have been the community event to bring together thousands of Canadians in tribute to and in memory of people affected by a brain tumour. **For more information about the 20+ Brain Tumour Walks taking place across Canada in 2016, visit www.BrainTumourWalk.ca.**

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity that offers information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization also funds research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated more than \$4 million to finding a cure for the disease and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. **Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.**

To schedule an interview with Olivia Hughes or for further information about the Edmonton Brain Tumour Walk, please contact:

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