

Media Release

Lack of access to treatments across Canada puts patients at risk, survey

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada calls on Ontario to lead the way to improve access

London, ON – February 20, 2018 - A recent survey from Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada reveals the No. 1 issue affecting the brain tumour community is a lack of access to drugs and treatment options across Canada.

Every day, life-saving surgeries for brain tumour patients are postponed or cancelled due to a lack of hospital beds and other resources including nursing support. Other potentially life-saving or extending drug therapies are only accessible to patients within certain provinces.

In Ontario, patients are paying out of pocket for an approved drug effective against the most aggressive form of brain cancer that is not covered under the provincial drug plan. A new drug plan for Ontarians announced earlier this year excludes this life-extending treatment for glioblastoma patients.

Patients from six of Canada's 10 provinces do not have access to a safer option of radiation treatment, known as Gamma Knife. This precise treatment can improve quality of life in people living with a brain tumour by using focussed beams of radiation to hit tumours not normal brain tissue.

"The diagnosis of a brain tumour is a terrifying experience that brings with it tremendous hardships, including physical, emotional and intellectual challenges along with significant financial burdens. In the spirit of the compassionate, benevolent country Canada is, we need to do a better job of properly supporting those Canadians who are affected by this devastating disease," says Maureen Daniels, RN and Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada board member.

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has asked the Ontario government to take a closer look at these issues and provide complete coverage for first line oral chemotherapy treatment for all brain tumour patients as part of basic healthcare coverage; and to create an efficient process for patients to apply for financial assistance for additional physician-approved therapies.

The Foundation is also urging the country's most populace province to be the leader in facilitating Canada's full participation in a Canadian Brain Tumour Registry to provide the necessary data to support leading research and more treatment options in every province.

The survey and addition of three new government relations experts on Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's advocacy committee will be invaluable in securing government support to improve quality of life for those affected by a brain tumour.

About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada: Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity offering information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization funds ground-breaking research across North

America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$5.8 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Carla Garrett

Marketing and Communications Associate

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada

1.800.265.5106 ext. 244

cgarrett@braintumour.ca