

2018 IMPACT REPORT
THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

*Improving the lives
of people with
kidney disease.*



**THE LOGAN
BOULET EFFECT**

*A selfless act triggers
a tidal wave*

OUR VISION

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is committed to achieving excellent kidney health, optimal quality of life, and a cure for kidney disease.

OUR MISSION

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the national volunteer organization committed to eliminating the burden of kidney disease through:

- Funding and stimulating innovative research for better 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.

A group of kidney campers enjoys some outdoor fun



Cover Photo:
Logan Boulet's parents, Toby and Bernie:
an inspirational force behind the Logan Boulet Effect

(THE CANADIAN PRESS / David Rossiter)

MESSAGE *from the President and National Executive Director*

In 2018, The Kidney Foundation updated its vision and strategic priorities based on the feedback and needs of its stakeholders.

Based on this, we are focusing on supporting research that will lead to improved treatments and a cure for kidney disease, offering programs and services that increase quality of life for those with kidney disease, and increasing prevention and awareness initiatives to improve kidney health.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Invest strategically in research to improve patient outcomes and find a cure
2. Optimize Kidney Foundation support programs to best meet the needs of those affected by kidney disease
3. Empower people to manage their kidney health through accessible, relevant education and risk awareness
4. Engage with governments and other organizations to advocate effectively for equitable access to all treatment options to achieve policy and systems change

In the pages that follow, you will find highlights of the results achieved through these strategies. You'll see how our commitment to support people living with kidney disease through important programs helped someone during a very difficult time (Page 6) and discover how we provided parents and kids a welcome break at Kidney Camps (Page 7). The advocacy work done by The Foundation on behalf of kidney patients has also borne fruit, as is evidenced by a new Living Kidney Donation Program in Quebec (Page 10).

You will read about the Kidney Coach program (Page 13), a fine example of one way The Kidney Foundation continues to seek out new and innovative ways to promote good kidney health and to inform those who are most at risk of developing kidney disease while working with key community partners. You will learn about some of the programs and researchers who lead the way to uncovering better outcomes for those affected by kidney disease.

It is thanks in part to the core values that inform our work and relationships that The Foundation can deliver on its priorities. We are patient-centred, meaning that people affected by kidney disease are at the core of all we do. We build collaborations, both internally and externally, to amplify our voice and leverage our resources. We are leaders who embrace new opportunities to shape a better future for people at risk of or affected by kidney disease. We are committed to quality, innovation, and continuous improvement, and pursue excellence in all we do.

To achieve all it does, The Kidney Foundation relies on the work and financial support of thousands of volunteers and donors. These include people who provide peer support to individuals newly on dialysis, and struggle to come to terms with kidney failure, people who organize and participate in over 100 Kidney Walks across the country, and those who raise awareness of organ donation. The Boulet family (Page 4) falls into this last category. Following the tragic loss of their son Logan, Toby and Bernie Boulet have become huge advocates for organ donation. We had the opportunity to meet the Boulets at a gala in Saskatchewan last October,

and were inspired by their story, their courage, and their commitment. To the Boulet family, and to all our supporters, we say thank you!

We are thrilled to share some of our 2018 accomplishments with you in this Impact Report.



GREG ROBBINS

National President

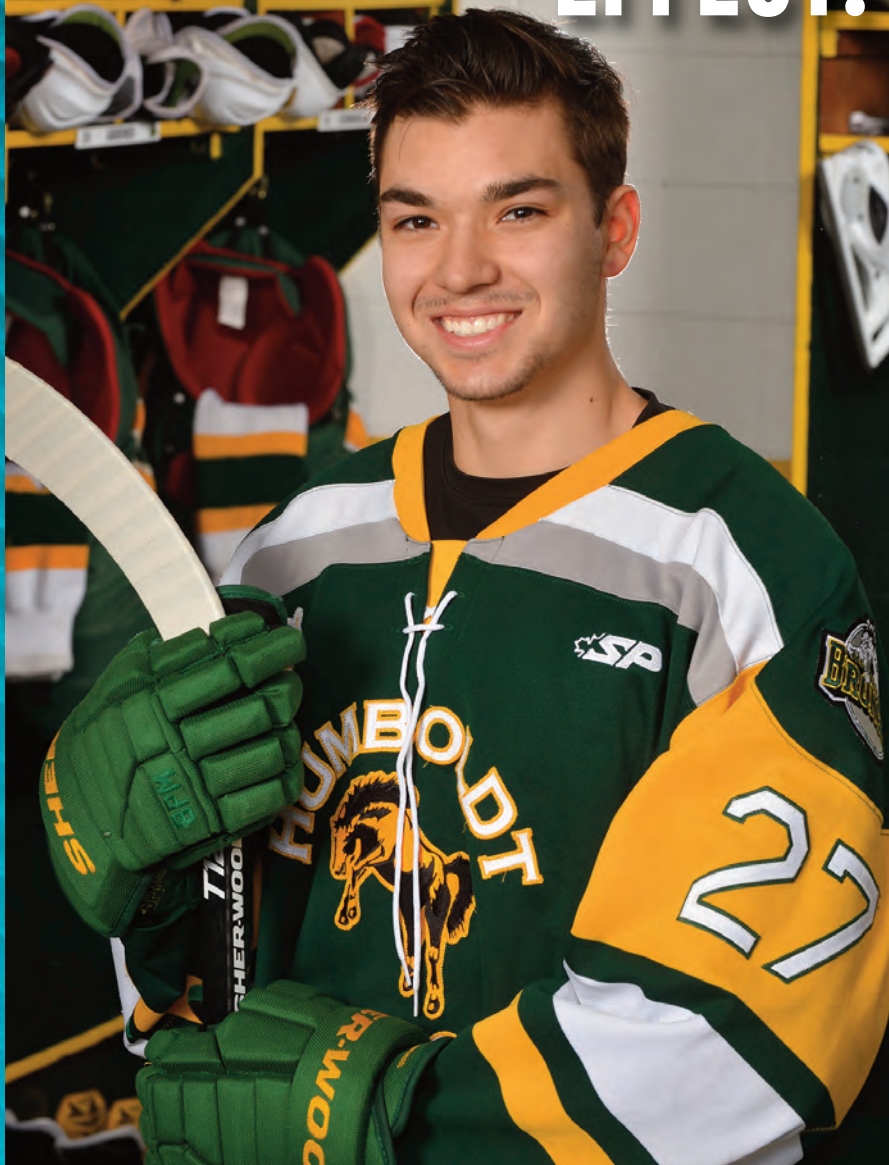


ELIZABETH MYLES

National Executive Director

THE LOGAN BOULET EFFECT:

From a Ripple to a Swell to a Tidal Wave.

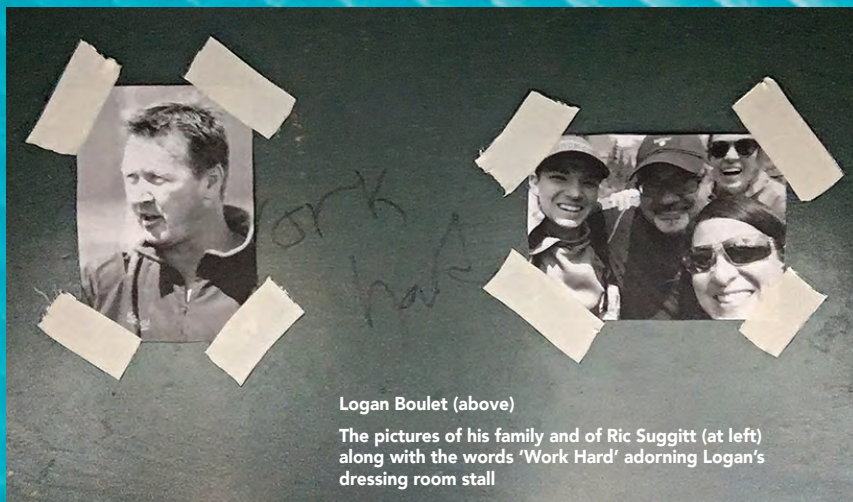


From a ripple to a swell to a tidal wave. This one simple idea sent in a tweet from a stranger keeps Toby and Bernie Boulet going through the tough days. The days in which they miss their son so much, they can hardly breathe. 21-year-old Logan lost his life with 15 others in the Humboldt Broncos bus tragedy on April 6, 2018. But he was able to become an organ donor, saving the lives of six people and sparking a national movement known as the Logan Boulet Effect. That movement inspired more than 100,000 Canadians to register as organ donors – so many registrations that it’s difficult to track how many lives have been saved.

“As the year went on, we realized we were becoming the voice of the angel donors. There are families where their child passes away, or their dad passes away, and they become an angel donor family. No one knows who they are. They have no voice,” says Toby Boulet. “The Humboldt tragedy pushed Logan’s donation into the spotlight, and we felt we had a duty to speak on behalf of other families. People have messaged us privately and said, ‘thank you for speaking for us.’”

THE RIPPLE BEGINS

The ripple actually began long before the devastating bus crash. On June 27, 2017, Logan’s mentor Ric Suggitt was driving his daughter to swim club in Lethbridge when he grabbed his head and suddenly pulled over, saying to his 12-year-old, “I’m so sorry, call your mom.” Ric had suffered a brain hemorrhage. His wife Jenn and their three



Logan Boulet (above)

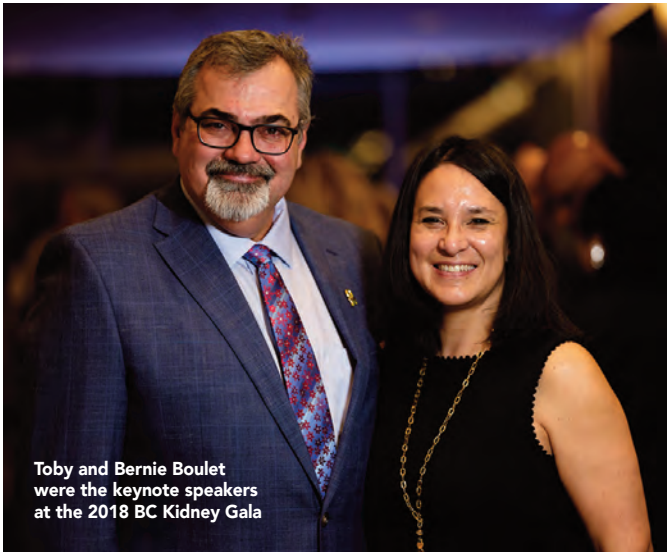
The pictures of his family and of Ric Suggitt (at left) along with the words ‘Work Hard’ adorning Logan’s dressing room stall



3,400
PEOPLE WAITING
FOR A KIDNEY
TRANSPLANT



4 YEARS:
MEDIAN WAIT TIME
FOR A DECEASED
DONOR KIDNEY
TRANSPLANT



Toby and Bernie Boulet were the keynote speakers at the 2018 BC Kidney Gala

children were given the news no one wants to hear – there was no activity in his brain. Jenn Suggitt turned to her children and said, “Dad isn’t going to make it. But we have an opportunity to save someone else’s life.” Ric’s donation saved the lives of five Canadians. As close family friends, the Boulets were devastated by Ric’s sudden passing.

Later that summer, Logan told his dad, “One day, I want to become a donor, just like Ric.” No one ever imagined Logan would fulfill that wish so soon.

“What will we miss? Him getting married, having kids, what he could have done as a coach...the things he never got to do that he wanted to do.” Through tears, Toby and Bernie reflect on what it means to lose Logan at such a young age. “He would have been an amazing coach, an amazing father.”

For Ric Suggitt’s ripple to become a wave, the Boulet family needed to step up into the spotlight at the worst time of their lives. And they did. Toby and Bernie made their first formal presentation on their experience at The Kidney Foundation’s Gala in Saskatoon in October. “What made it good was to share my stories about Logan. I got to talk about my son,” says Bernie. “People were so kind, thoughtful, understanding and grateful. People began to hear our story... Logan’s story...to hear the impact of his donation...to feel the ripple effect.”

KITCHEN TABLE TALK

Since then Toby, Bernie, and their daughter Mariko have travelled across Canada, presenting at Kidney Foundation Galas in Northern Alberta and B.C., as well as dropping the puck in Lethbridge for The Kidney Foundation’s special series *RE/MAX Presents: WHL Suits up with Don Cherry to Promote Organ Donation*. Throughout they have unfailingly shared a simple message: “Have that kitchen table talk with your family. Make sure they know your wishes about organ donation,” says Toby. “We know firsthand how important that is.”

Bernie can’t believe how far word has spread. And how the impact of one small decision has sparked a national movement. “It started with Ric, then Logan, then the wave across Canada. But it goes so much farther than that. Getting a transplant has a huge impact on the recipient and their entire family!

So, the ripple effect goes forward for generations,” says Bernie with a quiet smile. “The Logan Boulet Effect has resonated with Canadians because they want something good to come out of this tragedy,” says Toby. “That’s the story people will remember. That’s the story going forward.”

GREEN SHIRT DAY: THE TIDAL WAVE

On April 7, 2019, a year to the day that Logan Boulet became an organ donor, thousands of Canadians from coast to coast to coast celebrated the first annual Green Shirt Day. Canadians from all walks of life posted pictures on social media wearing their green shirts with heartfelt messages celebrating the **#LoganBouletEffect**. Hockey teams and schools hosted Green Shirt Day events, and Don Cherry and Ron MacLean invited viewers to celebrate the Boulets and the lives saved by organ donors during the Hockey Night in Canada broadcast. Jann Arden posted on Instagram wearing her green shirt, declaring she’s registered as a donor, and the Prime Minister of Canada met with the Boulets, posting on social media. Cities and provinces across Canada formally proclaimed Green Shirt Day. All of this resulted in a record numbers of registrations nation-wide.



AN OPEN LETTER TO ORGAN DONORS AND FAMILIES

After being on dialysis for over four years, I received the gift of life 10 years ago. I think of my angel donor and her family all the time. I wish I could tell them how much I treasure each day, and how grateful I am for their generosity.

To the Boulet family, and all organ donors and families, thank you for giving the gift of life. As recipients we want you to know we live each day to the fullest, with gratitude, knowing the treasure that we carry, that has sustained our lives. You are in our hearts more than we can ever express.

Thank you.

Suzanna, kidney recipient

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Heighten Negative Effects of Kidney Disease

Bibi's warm smile and caring nature masks the stress and anxiety that is a regular part of her life.

The last five years have been anything but kind. At age 50, Bibi never would have guessed the many twists and turns her life would take. When she learned she had kidney disease nearly eight years ago, she could never have predicted the impact physically, emotionally and financially on herself and her son.

"The financial impact of kidney disease has been severe to me," said Bibi. "I can't even begin to say how bad it's been." As a diabetic, Bibi understood the risk of kidney disease. After all, both an uncle and her father were on dialysis. Sadly, her dad passed away from complications of the disease 10 years ago. Her own diagnosis came after surgery for a detached retina. Four years later she began in-centre dialysis in the same unit where she once visited with her father.

UNEMPLOYED AND HOMELESS

Initially, Bibi was able to balance work, at the office where she had been employed, and her dialysis treatments. But complications from the disease began to take a toll on her body, leaving her with limited mobility and unable to work.

To make matters worse, last fall, Bibi and her son lost their apartment. Now homeless, the pair are living week to week in a motel on a modest income from disability. With limited wheelchair access and a cramped space, the conditions are anything but perfect. But Bibi feels fortunate that they have a roof over their head and a place to call home, if even temporarily. Bibi describes herself as one of the lucky ones. "I'm lucky, I know people living in their cars right now."

NOT AN ISOLATED CASE

A 2018 report released by The Kidney Foundation of Canada: *The Burden of Out-of-Pocket Costs for Canadians with Kidney Failure*, has served as the cornerstone for many of The Foundation's recent advocacy efforts by underscoring the financial hardships that kidney patients face every day. Unfortunately, Bibi's situation is not unique. With increased out-of-pocket costs related to travel expenses to and from dialysis, medication costs and loss of work, more than 25% of patients saw their annual income decrease by at least 40% since starting dialysis. At a time when their kidneys are failing, the healthcare system is also failing individuals living with kidney disease.

Finding a suitable home that is both accessible and affordable continues to be a challenge, but Bibi's not giving up.

The bond between Bibi and her son is evident. She credits him with being an amazing caregiver, a role that no 21-year-old expects to take on. It's that special bond that keeps Bibi going.

A BIT OF RELIEF

Bibi accessed support from The Kidney Foundation's short-term financial assistance program during a particularly tough time last year. According to Bibi, it was "a boost" that she's truly thankful for. But Bibi is quick to stress that more needs to be done. "Greater awareness is needed, people need to know there are people struggling like me with kidney disease... they're struggling hard," she added. That's why Bibi has chosen to share her story in hopes that the public and our elected officials will have a better understanding and make the necessary changes so that a diagnosis of kidney disease doesn't also mean financial crisis.

"I was always a very strong independent woman. I always did for myself and now I can't do for myself, I have to depend on others and I don't like it." Recognizing that sometimes support is needed, isn't always easy. Bibi is comforted knowing that The Kidney Foundation is there to help, "that's where my help is."



OVER 2,900
PEOPLE RECEIVED
SHORT-TERM
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



\$460,000
PROVIDED IN
SHORT-TERM
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



KIDNEY CAMPS: *Support for a Welcome Break*

Kidney Camps give children with kidney disease or who are kidney transplant recipients a chance to enjoy summer activities in a summer camp specifically tailored to their needs. It is a time for campers to share with other kids with a similar condition and to build lasting bonds of friendship. There are children's camp experiences offered across the country and a family camp in Ontario. Children's camps often provide a worry-free respite for parents, allowing them some time for themselves and for their other children.

After participating in truly inspiring dialysis camps in New York State, Dr. Marie-José Clermont felt that children back home deserved to benefit from the same experience, and so she started the first summer camp for young kidney patients in her home province of Quebec.

Dr. Clermont and Paule Comptois, a nurse who volunteers at the camp, extended their volunteer reach by sharing their impactful experiences with a small group of Kidney Foundation supporters gathered at the restaurant of a leading celebrity chef.

Dr. Clermont and Ms. Comptois informed donors and potential donors about one of the many ways that their contributions to The Kidney Foundation have touched the lives of real people.

Here are some of the testimonials from grateful kids and parents that were shared. They are exemplary of the many camp experiences children and families enjoy annually through the generous support of Kidney Foundation donors.



Judesson has only one kidney. At the age of two, his kidney was removed due to high blood pressure. His mother is immensely grateful for the respite of a week, as she can spend it with her other child of three, knowing that Judesson is having fun with other young people with kidney failure.



Brandon received a kidney transplant from his father in 2011. In addition to his kidney disease, Brandon has an intellectual disability. His mother greatly appreciates the break that camps provide because, for a while, the family has only experienced setbacks. The specialized services at Brandon's school were eliminated, as were the respite services from which she had benefitted. After her maternity leave, she was unable to return to work because she had to stay with him. The family of seven must now live solely on the father's salary and he has to work overtime to make ends meet. The week at Kidney Camp is the only break she has to recharge her batteries.



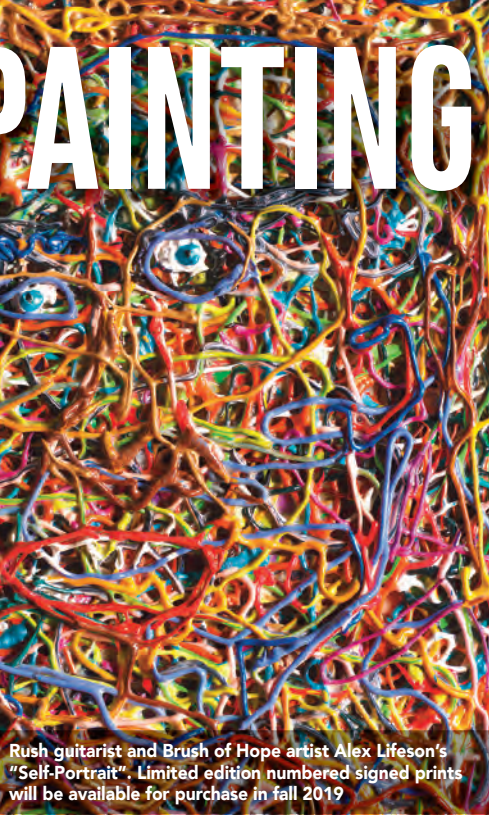
Tristan is ten years old and, in addition to his kidney disease, he has an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. There are two other children aged six and eight in the family. His father is very grateful that Tristan can go to camp because on top of caring for his two other children, he must take care of his wife who has cancer and recently began chemo and will continue her treatments for one year.

PAINTING

a Better Future for Kidney Patients



Rush guitarist and Brush of Hope artist Alex Lifeson's "Self-Portrait". Limited edition numbered signed prints will be available for purchase in fall 2019



Imagine proudly showing off your one-of-a-kind work of art created by a famous celebrity as it is displayed in a place of honour in your home. Even more significant is the sense of pride that comes from knowing that the purchase of the prized piece helps to fund groundbreaking kidney research and much-needed programs and support for those living with kidney disease.

That's the idea behind Brush of Hope, an annual online art auction that benefits The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Since 2006, musicians, actors, artists, athletes, media personalities, and even politicians have generously donated their works of art to the cause. They have included the likes of Leonard Cohen, Gordon Pinsent, Don Cherry, Mike Myers, Barenaked Ladies, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to name only a few.

However, the one constant through the years has been Alex Lifeson of the rock band Rush who is the only celebrity to have contributed an original piece of art every year. "Rush fans are avid collectors," explains Tom Meade, The Kidney Foundation Atlantic Branch Board President. "That's partly why Alex's paintings usually attract the most interest. His works are also really very good."



The 2006 Brush of Hope contribution from Degraasi: The Next Generation actor and future rap superstar Aubrey Graham (aka Drake)

“I can still recall the first Brush of Hope package I received well over a decade ago with a board, a few brushes and about a dozen acrylic colours. I am by no means a painter but thought what a wonderful idea this was, to involve celebrities from various fields to contribute something that was out of their collective box. My father suffered from renal failure for a few years before he died so this project was near and dear to my heart and gave me great inspiration. I invested in my own 80 plus tubes of paint, assorted canvasses and brushes of every shape and size, so I could produce something special for this special annual event and look forward to it every year. I feel particularly blessed that I've been so well supported by Rush fans and friends who so generously give to own a piece of my limited but heartfelt contributions year after year and to the support it provides for the continuing search for a cure.”

Alex Lifeson

The 10-day auction, hosted on eBay.ca every October, has raised over \$357,000 to date. "We're very grateful to have a sponsor support the delivery of artwork for several years," says Tanya Kelley, Development Coordinator at The Kidney Foundation. "Their support has helped to make the event the success it is today."



The 2017 Brush of Hope contribution from actor/comedian Colin Mochrie

Alex's paintings are so popular that, every year, in addition to offering an original work of art for auction, he also makes 100 limited-edition, autographed and numbered prints of the previous year's work available for sale, with the proceeds also supporting The Kidney Foundation. The 2018 prints of *20,000 Feet Over The Sea* sold out in less than one week.

Follow @BrushofHope on Instagram to see more works of art.

TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT WALKS 45 KM

to Mark Milestone Anniversary



Terry Young (center) surrounded by The Youngsters

Terry Young never misses a Kidney Walk, and in 2018 he took on an extra challenge. He and his family decided to walk 45 km to mark the 45th anniversary of his kidney transplant. They began in Owen Sound on September 8, the actual date of his transplant surgery and also his wife's birthday. They didn't stop too long to celebrate. Less than 24 hours later they were in Barrie for another 10 km hike. Over the course of four weekends, Terry took part in seven Kidney Walks in

communities across Ontario, doubling the usual distance in some cases to reach his objective.

"It is a chance to give back which is very important to me, and recognize how truly fortunate I am," says Terry, a long-time volunteer and past president of The Kidney Foundation Ontario Board of Directors. "When you go on these walks you get to meet people who are going

Terry, with Kidney Foundation Fund Development Officer Erika Muscat, at the Chatham Kidney Walk



through their own challenges and it gives you truly an appreciation for what it is all about."

Terry was just a teenager when he received a deceased donor kidney from out-of-province. The transplant changed his life. Before the surgery, he was on dialysis in a hospital in Vancouver. He remembers being so weak after dialyzing that he could barely walk, and had to take a taxi from the hospital to his home just two blocks away.

Now the act of moving, of stepping forward, holds special meaning. It reminds him of where he's been, and how grateful he is to have strength and mobility.

The walks are also an opportunity to raise funds for The Kidney Foundation, and support patient services and research.

The past decades have seen remarkable progress for kidney patients. In 1973, only a quarter of transplant recipients still had their donated kidney after three years. Today, the five-year survival rate is over 80 per cent from deceased donors.

Terry plans to continue taking part in Kidney Walks every fall, wearing his trademark Cleveland Browns cap. When the 50th anniversary of his transplant comes along, he hopes to mark the occasion with another marathon hike. Until then, he'll take it one step at a time.

- Article by Heidi Westfield



OVER 18,000
KIDNEY WALK
PARTICIPANTS
& VOLUNTEERS



115
KIDNEY
WALK SITES



\$3.2 MILLION
RAISED



Dr. Michel R. Pâquet

NEW LIVING DONOR PROGRAM

Will Improve Results

Thanks in part to the sustained and ongoing efforts of The Kidney Foundation’s Organ and Tissue Donation Committee in Quebec, significant progress has been made in the area of living organ donation program.

Progress on advocacy initiatives requires dedication and patience. The Organ and Tissue Donation Committee has sustained efforts to promote living donation since 2012. Efforts culminated with the announcement of a new living donor program in August.

The Quebec Living Kidney Donation Program builds on the success of a pilot project initiated by the Quebec Branch of The Kidney Foundation of Canada and led by Dr. Michel R. Pâquet, nephrologist at the *Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal* (CHUM). The pilot project was an opportunity for the five kidney transplant centres in Quebec to share their knowledge, draw on practices from outside Quebec, and develop best practices in living donations for Quebec.

“The creation of this program is excellent news,” stated Dr. Pâquet. “It means we will

be able to inject the required resources into the healthcare system and double the number of living kidney transplants, which are about 50 per year right now.”

The new program will train and add dedicated living donation staff to the five Quebec transplant centers and promote this option to patients and their loved ones. Dedicated staff will also facilitate and expedite the testing of potential donors. According to Dr. Pâquet, the advantages of living kidney donation are that the kidneys are often healthier, start working immediately, and last longer.

Fifty additional kidney transplants per year will save more than \$110 million in healthcare costs over a 10-year period.

This is in addition to the positive impact on society and on the people who will be able to resume an active lifestyle following a transplant. People who receive living kidney transplants will be removed from the waiting list for deceased kidney transplants, which may reduce wait times for the other people on the list. Furthermore, the program will lead to improved coordination of the entire transplantation process and will accelerate the steps for both donor and recipient.

By 2021, Quebec aims to double the number of kidney transplants from living donors to 100 annually.





INSPIRED BY IMPACT,

a Volunteer Chooses to Leave a Legacy

An encounter with a former executive director of The Kidney Foundation led Harvey Thomson down a volunteer path that inspired him so powerfully, he has chosen to leave a legacy to support those impacted by kidney disease.

“A chance meeting with that executive director brought me into this organization, but it’s been the dedication of the staff and volunteers that has led me to stay involved for the past 12 years,” said Harvey. “I’d spent decades as a consultant. He asked me to help with a restructuring process within the organization and I saw it as an opportunity to use my skills in organizational management to help a great charity become even more effective.”

As he became more involved with The Kidney Foundation, Harvey found the work and mission to be incredibly compelling. “I was, and still am, struck by the commitment of people who have been affected by kidney disease. They are always so eager to share their stories and help others who are dealing with similar issues. I found that my own commitment grew the longer that I worked with this wonderful group of staff and volunteers.”

His initial volunteer engagement led to commitments as a branch board member, eventually



“
My admiration for The Kidney Foundation really made me want to do something more than volunteer my time.
”

becoming its president, then to the national board of directors, where he was extensively involved in policy redevelopment.

Harvey’s dedication and generosity, both of his time and financially, are all the more extraordinary considering the fact that neither Harvey, nor anyone in his family, has ever been personally affected by kidney disease.

“When the past president of The Kidney Foundation of Canada, a woman much younger than me, passed away quite suddenly, she left a legacy gift in her will to The Foundation and it struck me immediately that was something that I should consider doing. It took me and my wife a few years to get around to updating our wills, but when we did, it was incredibly easy to add a gift in our will.”

“My admiration for The Kidney Foundation really made me want to do something more than volunteer my time, make donations, and attend events,” said Harvey.

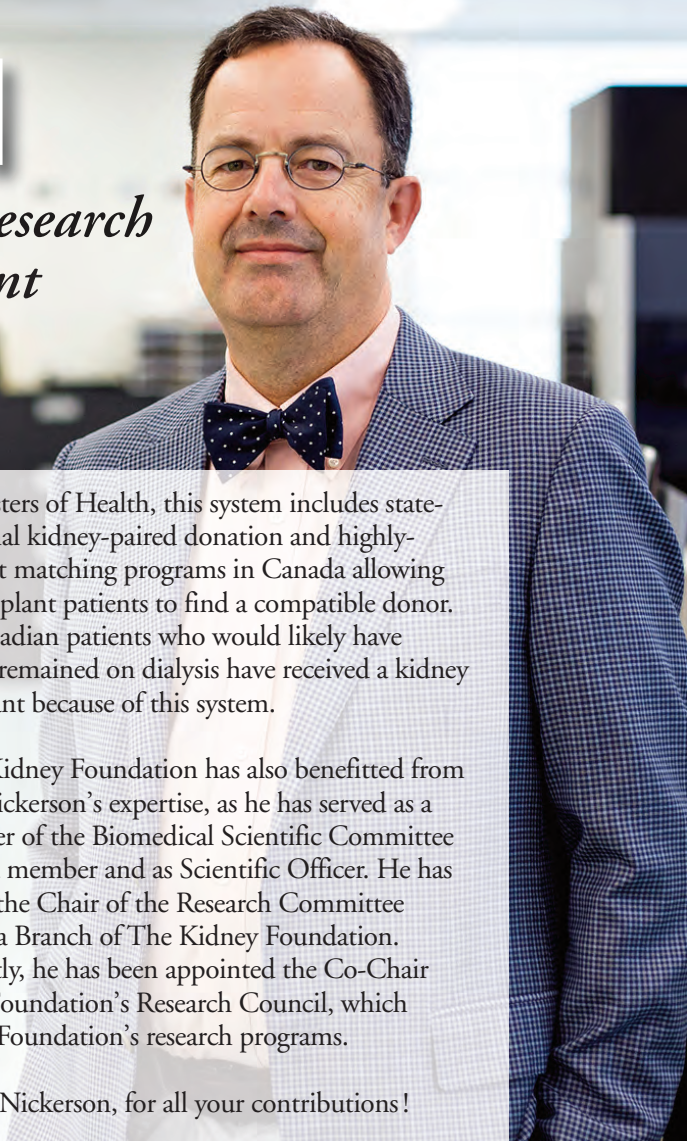
As someone who participates in numerous local events and activities, Harvey is a long-term and dedicated supporter and volunteer who has been inspired by the impact of programs and The Foundation’s commitment to research. “Given that kidney disease will be affecting more and more Canadians in the years ahead, I can’t think of a more important way to leave a lasting gift.”



Linne and Harvey Thomson attend a Kidney Foundation gala

DR. PETER NICKERSON

2018 Medal for Research Excellence Recipient



Dr. Peter Nickerson is recognized as a leader in transplantation medicine both in Canada and around the world. His innovative research and contributions to health policy are helping to improve access to, and the quality of, organ transplantation in Canada. As part of a team of renowned transplant researchers at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Nickerson is working to unravel the complex factors that influence the success or rejection of a transplanted donor organ. His research focuses on mechanisms of acute and chronic kidney transplant rejection, immunogenetics, non-invasive diagnostics monitoring immune activation, and health policy and system design.

Dr. Nickerson spearheaded the team that designed and implemented a national transplant program that oversees interprovincial organ sharing. Rolled out by Canadian Blood Services under a mandate from the Federal, Provincial and

Territorial Ministers of Health, this system includes state-of-the-art national kidney-paired donation and highly-sensitized patient matching programs in Canada allowing difficult-to-transplant patients to find a compatible donor. Over 1,000 Canadian patients who would likely have otherwise remained on dialysis have received a kidney transplant because of this system.



The Kidney Foundation has also benefitted from Dr. Nickerson's expertise, as he has served as a member of the Biomedical Scientific Committee both as a member and as Scientific Officer. He has also acted as the Chair of the Research Committee for the Manitoba Branch of The Kidney Foundation. And most recently, he has been appointed the Co-Chair of The Kidney Foundation's Research Council, which oversees all The Foundation's research programs.

Thank you, Dr. Nickerson, for all your contributions!

PEER Review

How The Kidney Foundation Ensures it Funds Only the Most Promising Research Projects

The Kidney Foundation provides three types of funding:

- **Operating Grants:** Provides financial support to researchers, used for the salaries of support personnel, and to purchase the supplies needed to perform the research.
- **Fellowships & Awards:** Provides salary support for researchers who are in the early stages of their kidney research careers (new investigators), or those pursuing doctoral or post-doctoral degrees.
- **Scholarships:** Supports outstanding Allied Health professionals in a master's program.

Before we fund a research project, it must first go through a rigorous vetting process. Researchers must submit a written application that details the hypothesis they wish to explore, the methodology they intend to employ, as well as the experience that they and their team bring to the project.

As these research applications are very technical and include specific scientific

information, outside experts are required to help evaluate their feasibility. We rely on the collective knowledge of volunteers from the healthcare and scientific community. The Foundation's peer review committees are comprised of leaders in their respective fields. In 2018, researchers dedicated a total of nearly 1,800 hours to the peer review process.

Members of the peer review committees are chosen to ensure diversity in fields of expertise, gender, and geographic representation. Each member is asked to state any potential conflict of interest related to any of the proposed research projects. If a conflict of interest exists, the member does not participate in the review of that application.

Applications are evaluated on the basis of scientific excellence and relevance to the mission of The Kidney Foundation of Canada, among other criteria. The review committee then ranks each application in order to determine which proposals are to be funded.

The Kidney Foundation's Research Commitment



68 APPLICANTS
95 CO-APPLICANTS



OVER \$4 MILLION
IN RESEARCH GRANTS



OVER \$7.5 MILLION
LEVERAGED FROM STRATEGIC PARTNERS

A FRESH APPROACH

Brings Message of Kidney Health to New Audiences

How do you bring awareness of kidney health to more people across the country? Sometimes a simple message with a touch of humour hits the right note. The Kidney Foundation of Canada's Manitoba branch teamed up with the Manitoba Renal Program on an advertising campaign to encourage kidney health. The light-hearted campaign offers informal, accessible advice with eye-catching graphics. The multi-platform messages have reached audiences in dozens of Manitoba communities, and generated significant engagement online.

"The Kidney Coach campaign is a fun way to promote keeping kidneys healthy and raise awareness in general about kidney disease," says Amie Lesyk, Communications Specialist with the Manitoba Renal Program. "By partnering with The Kidney Foundation of Canada Manitoba Branch and putting resources into a time-limited campaign, we hoped to reach more people in our province with messages emphasizing the importance of kidney health."

Kidney Coaches Krista & Eric cheer on Abubakar as he bikes while getting dialysis treatment

The campaign was launched in March to coincide with Kidney Health Month in Canada. A website called kidneycoach.ca was developed, which offers eight tips on how to keep your kidneys healthy, along with a quiz and risk checklist. The campaign also included a series of radio and print ads, and promotions on transit buses and online.

With a minimal budget in its initial year, the Kidney Coach campaign was able to bring about enviable results. It has reached audiences in both urban and rural areas in Manitoba, especially within populations at higher risk of developing kidney disease. Those populations include First Nations people and the Filipino community. During its run, the campaign generated more than 2,000,000 impressions and 12,000 direct engagements. It also received coverage from local media, on CTV Morning Live and CityTV.



Kidney Foundation Educational Materials



24,000
PATIENT
HANDBOOKS
DISTRIBUTED



44,000
EDUCATIONAL
BROCHURES
DISTRIBUTED

This campaign brought an easy-to-understand message about kidney health beyond the doctor's office to people across Manitoba. With millions of Canadians at risk of developing chronic kidney disease, promoting public awareness of kidney health is vital. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent or slow down the progression of renal disease, providing a better quality of life for those impacted.

- Article by Heidi Westfield



Kidney Foundation Programs



146,000
PEOPLE CONSULTED
KIDNEYCOMMUNITYKITCHEN.CA



2,000
PEOPLE ACCESSED PEER-TO-PEER
SUPPORT THROUGH KIDNEY CONNECT

NEW LEADERS

Take the KRESCENT Helm



Dr. Todd Alexander

The Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training (KRESCENT) program's mission is to enhance kidney research capacity in Canada and to foster knowledge translation in health research.

Last year, Dr. Todd Alexander assumed the role of Program Director at KRESCENT. Commenting on his new assignment, Dr. Alexander states: "my individual research contributions are necessarily limited to one laboratory in my area of kidney research. I believe that I can have an even larger impact by helping to train the next generation of kidney research scientists in Canada."

Dr. Sunny Hartwig has also stepped into the newly created role of Curriculum Co-Chair. "As a KRESCENT alumnus I want to give back to the program that has been so transformative in my career," says Dr. Hartwig. "I'm thrilled to have been asked to contribute in this way."

Although the two roles each have their own distinct responsibilities and objectives, Dr. Alexander and Dr. Hartwig expect to work closely and collaboratively to further enhance KRESCENT's impact and to bring innovation to its curriculum.

TRANSFORMATIVE FOR RESEARCHERS

Approaching her new appointment, Dr. Hartwig sought the input of all KRESCENT trainees, past graduates and KRESCENT patient partners, to learn what they perceived as having been the most valuable about the program, as well as changes or enhancements that might be most helpful to future KRESCENT researchers. "I sent more than 40 emails to very busy research professionals, and within one hour I got 27 replies, which is unheard of – and all expressing an eagerness to help in any way they could," she says enthusiastically.

"To me, that speaks volumes of how indispensable the KRESCENT Program has been and continues to be for the success of its graduates."

A NEXT-LEVEL TRAINING PROGRAM

Traditionally, science training uses a model, wherein a successful research applicant would receive funding from an organization like The Kidney Foundation of Canada or the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and, with the support of his or her supervisor, would conduct the proposed research. In this model, it's the supervisor's role to provide training for the researcher.

"I see KRESCENT as a next-level training program," notes Dr. Alexander. "Researchers not only receive funding to pay their bills from KRESCENT, but we also provide training to become better scientists. Most notably, they get training in some very important soft skills, such as how to write a grant application, and how to write or evaluate a research paper. Further, by having biannual face-to-face meetings, one of which is concurrent with the Canadian Society of Nephrology's annual meeting, trainees are exposed to the large cadre of kidney research scientists in Canada. Ultimately, I feel this type of training provides the trainees with the greatest chance of success with their careers."

The changes in KRESCENT's leadership took place as Dr. Kevin Burns stepped down following his long-standing dedication in the founding role of Program Director.



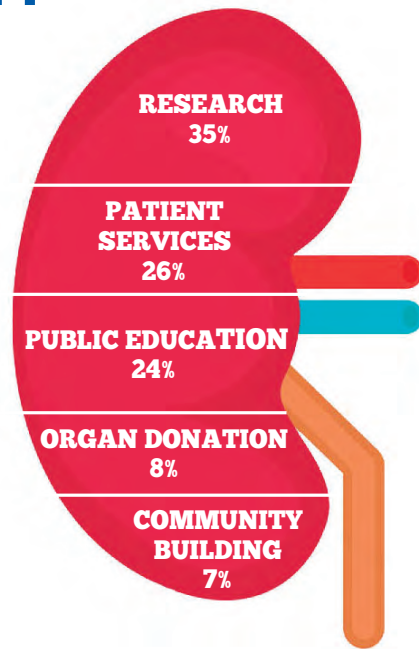
KRESCENT AWARDS



\$997,000

IN KRESCENT RESEARCH GRANTS

SPENDING BY PROGRAM *



THE INPUT

Supported by generous donations, investments in management, administration and fundraising serve to support the Foundation's optimal function and health

THE OUTCOME

The Kidney Foundation of Canada helps to assure improved kidney health for all, greater services and support for Canadians affected by kidney disease, and approaching a world that is free of kidney disease

* Net of fundraising, management and administration costs

21,000



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