



For immediate release

Local heroes raise funds and awareness for life-changing Parkinson's programs

VANCOUVER, BC, June 10, 2021 – This summer, British Columbians are gathering to take part in the 31st annual Parkinson SuperWalk. Since 1990, SuperWalk has provided a platform for increased awareness of the needs of those affected by Parkinson's disease across the province. Funds raised support Parkinson Society British Columbia's programs, support services, and contributions to research.

Every year, Parkinson SuperWalk is organized by dedicated volunteers in over 20 communities across the province. For the health and safety of event participants, this year's SuperWalk will be an entirely virtual experience, marked by a livestreamed opening ceremony taking place at 10:00am on Saturday, September 11, 2021. Following the ceremony, participants are encouraged to walk in their own neighbourhoods or local parks and trails, or they may join in as PSBC's livestream continues with an exercise class led by the Society's own neuro physiotherapist, Shelly Yu.

Parkinson's is a unique and unpredictable condition. Every day, 25 Canadians are diagnosed with the disease, often many years after the onset of their first symptoms. The disease affects everyone differently, and impacts all aspects of their life, and the lives of their loved ones. Living well with Parkinson's requires a specialized, team-based approach to healthcare, which is difficult for many British Columbians to access unless they live in, or can travel to, a major city. "Parkinson SuperWalk is an opportunity to raise awareness of the realities of living with this disease, while celebrating the strength and resilience of those who do," says Jean Blake, CEO of Parkinson Society British Columbia. "This event helps fund life-changing programs and services like counselling, support groups, exercise programs, and much more. Our vision of a future without Parkinson's disease begins with quality of life today." No matter what tomorrow may bring, together, we can make a difference.

For over 50 years, Parkinson Society British Columbia has been dedicated in supporting, educating, and empowering the Parkinson's community. The Society has advocated for better care in the Parkinson's community, including increased access to medications and treatment, greater support for caregivers, and specialized education for allied healthcare professionals.

For more information on Parkinson SuperWalk in British Columbia, visit: www.parkinson.bc.ca/superwalk.

Parkinson's Disease

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder with no known cure. With over 100,000 people diagnosed across Canada, Parkinson's is the second most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's. The worldwide incidence of Parkinson's disease is expected to double by 2040. Treatment is focused on symptom management, most often through exercise and medication.

Parkinson Society British Columbia

Since 1969, Parkinson Society British Columbia has served to empower people with Parkinson's disease in British Columbia through providing resources and services to enable self-management, self-reliance, and self-advocacy. The Society is a not-for-profit charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, and is supported by donations from individuals, members, corporations, foundations, and the efforts of our volunteers.

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