

YOUR IMPACT COUNTS



Donors in BC and the Yukon help transform lives by improving progress, care, and hope for kidney patients.

RESEARCH

Driving breakthroughs that improve treatments, extend lives, and give kidney patients hope for a healthier future.

ADVOCACY

Giving patients a powerful voice and shaping policies and care systems that protect rights, improve treatment access, and strengthen quality of life.

PATIENT PROGRAMS

Providing patients with practical help and financial support that ease daily challenges, leading to fuller, healthier lives.

HEALTH RESOURCES

Accessible health resources help with making informed decisions, managing daily care, and improving long-term outcomes.

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS 2025

YOUR IMPACT COUNTS

The Advocate

Advocacy is a powerful force in advancing kidney health in Canada, driving earlier diagnosis, closing gaps in care, and securing sustained investment in research and patient support. Branch Board member and Co-Chair of the Living Donor Circle of Excellence, Megan, has been a relentless champion of organ donation, raising critical awareness about the need for wage support during recovery and recognizing employers who step up with paid leave for living donors.

In 2025, she brought that voice directly to media and decision-makers, speaking at a Branch-hosted breakfast at the BC Legislature to push for stronger awareness and prevention efforts. As an organ donor herself, Megan speaks with lived experience—highlighting the urgent need to remove financial barriers and ensure equitable access to care, services, and life-saving treatment.



Megan Owen-Evans

The Community Leader

People are at the heart of what The Kidney Foundation does, and Elaine knows what it takes to motivate people at the grassroots level. As a dedicated community leader, she plays a vital role in the strength and reach of the BC and Yukon Branch, from serving as a 2025 National Board member to mobilizing volunteers for Kidney Walk—the Foundation’s largest annual event, which raises much-needed funds for programs and research that support kidney patients. As a kidney donor herself, Elaine also brings her personal experience to the peer mentorship program, offering a vital communication lifeline to others who are facing similar challenges.

Elaine’s firsthand understanding of both governance and community engagement has helped to build trust, expand networks, and drive meaningful impact.



Elaine Andrews

Together for Better Kidney Health

Leaders in research, policy, community engagement, and care are coming together, combining their diverse knowledge and experience to improve kidney health for all.

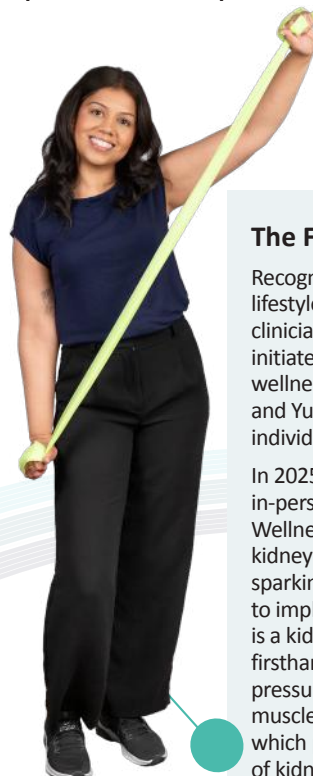
The Innovator

Dr. John Gill is a leading nephrologist and clinical researcher whose work drives meaningful change in kidney care. His research in health services, clinical outcomes in kidney transplantation, and access to care led him to founding the Living Donor Circle of Excellence in the U.S., which he brought to The Kidney Foundation to launch across Canada. This innovative program advances living donation through the recognition of employers who support living donors by addressing financial barriers to care. By 2025, more than 220 companies with nearly three million employees have been covered through the program.

Through forging international partnerships, he has also helped strengthen collaborative research and knowledge exchange across borders. His ongoing work continues to improve access to care and advance outcomes in kidney transplantation for patients in Canada and beyond.



Dr. John Gill



Gurjit Pawar

The Facilitator

Recognizing the importance that a healthy lifestyle can have on kidney health, renal nurse clinician and Branch Board member, Gurjit Pawar, initiated a pilot project to share programs and wellness-related initiatives developed by the BC and Yukon Branch to health care providers and individuals living with kidney disease.

In 2025, she coordinated highly successful in-person demonstrations of the Kidney Wellness Hub’s Exercise Snacks program in kidney care clinics throughout Fraser Health, sparking interest from other health authorities to implement similar initiatives. Gurjit, who is a kidney transplant recipient herself, knows firsthand how exercise helps manage blood pressure, reduce cardiovascular risk, prevent muscle loss, and control blood sugar — all of which play a key role in slowing the progression of kidney disease.

YOUR IMPACT COUNTS

ADVOCACY DRIVES AWARENESS,
SHAPES POLICY, AND ENSURES
PATIENTS HAVE A VOICE IN SECURING
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CARE,
TREATMENT, AND TRANSPLANTS.

PUTTING KIDNEY HEALTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

One in 10 Canadians live with kidney disease — a disease which has been described as a silent public health crisis affecting more than 4 million people in Canada. Driven by an aging population and increasing rates of diabetes and hypertension, its prevalence is projected to rise to more than 6.2 million Canadians by 2050. There is no cure for kidney failure, and approximately 50,000 Canadians living with kidney failure are receiving life-sustaining dialysis or have had a kidney transplant. Currently the 11th leading cause of death in Canada, kidney disease is also one of the nation's costliest chronic diseases.



On April 14, 2025, Foundation board members, advocates, staff, and patients met with MLAs to raise kidney health awareness and highlight investment needs.

To address these growing public health challenges, The Kidney Foundation of Canada developed a National Strategic Framework for Chronic Kidney Disease. The Framework prioritises prevention, early detection and timely intervention, equitable access to kidney care for all Canadians, and advancement of research and data for better kidney health. With the official launch of the Framework in March 2026, The Kidney Foundation aims to help government leaders close the gap between the rising burden of kidney disease and the coordinated national action needed to address it, ensuring the people living with or at risk of kidney disease receive the support they need at every stage.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

The BC and Yukon Branch carries these critical messages to key stakeholders through its advocacy efforts at the provincial and

municipal levels of government. The Branch hosted an MLA Breakfast for all parties at the BC Legislature in April 2025. More than 25 members were in attendance, including Premier David Eby, Josie Osborne (Minister of Health), Dr. Anna Kindy (Critic for Health), and Brennan Day (Critic for Rural Health and Seniors' Health).

AMPLIFYING PATIENT VOICES

Those living with chronic kidney disease shared their stories and the impact on their lives, while key initiatives to support patient care were highlighted, bringing awareness of the disease and its prevalence to the forefront.

Branch Board president, Glenn Powers, emceed the Breakfast and spoke about the importance of The Kidney Foundation's supportive programs and the access it offers to a kidney community of peers, which can be invaluable when going through so many life changes.

Glenn was diagnosed with early-stage kidney disease himself and brings that personal perspective to the Board and external stakeholders. "I will do whatever I can to share my own kidney journey and shine a light on a disease that so often flies under the radar," he shared. "This gives me purpose and hope for not only my own condition but also for the thousands of other Canadians in a similar situation."

The Kidney Foundation funds health-transforming research that not only improves the quality of life for kidney patients but also gives hope for a cure one day. In addition, the Foundation offers critical programs and services removing financial barriers patients can face in accessing their care.

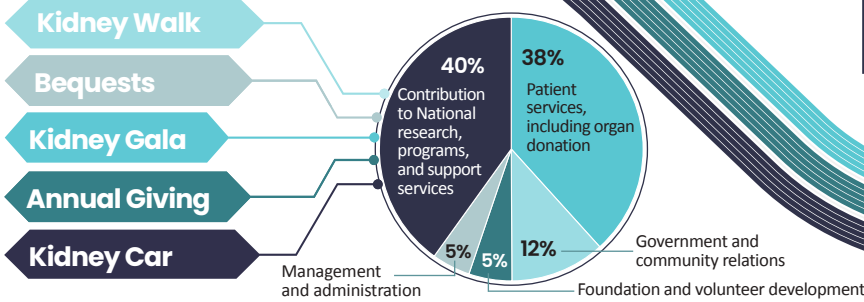
With more than 60 years dedicated to serving the kidney community, The Kidney Foundation also works in close collaboration with renal partners — including BC Renal, BC Transplant, and Can-SOLVE CKD Network — to empower people living with kidney disease to optimize their health. Building on this momentum, The Kidney Foundation is deepening its impact, expanding its reach, and continuing to make a meaningful difference for those affected by kidney disease across Canada.



Josie Osborne, BC Minister of Health and Pia Schindler, Executive Director, BC and Yukon Branch

YOUR DONATION COUNTS

WHERE YOUR DONATIONS GO



Research driving advancements in care

ADVANCING RESEARCH

Kidney health research has led to better prevention, earlier detection, and treatment strategies for kidney disease, ultimately improving patient outcomes and quality of life. In 2025, donations from BC and the Yukon helped support funding for kidney-related research conducted in Canada. In addition, contributions to national research through co-funded, multi-year team grants are supporting investigations into new diagnostic tools, social determinants of kidney disease, improved treatments, and more. Visit kidney.ca for a full list of research projects.

The Branch actively promotes kidney health awareness and education through campaigns, media efforts, and its own kidney health show, airing on Rogers West TV across Canada. Sharing stories, like the heartwarming feature of Yukon resident, Anne Huang, who recently received a kidney transplant from her father, helps highlight the importance of organ donation.



Chef Paul Natrall and Dani Renouf, RD, MSc, CDE

IMPROVING PATIENT WELLNESS

Donations help the Foundation expand access to support, information, and community for those living with kidney disease. The Foundation's Peer Support groups offer social connectivity and provide guidance and companionship to those grappling with the realities of living with kidney disease. Through the Kidney Wellness Hub and Foundation resources, patients and care partners can access tools to help develop healthier lifestyle habits, manage their condition, reduce isolation, and improve quality of life.



Helijet's Daniel Sitnam receiving COE award

REMOVING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO CARE

The Kidney Foundation's programs and services are helping meet growing needs by reducing barriers to kidney care for vulnerable and underserved communities with lower cost accommodation. Through the Living Donor Circle of Excellence (COE), the Foundation is also advancing kidney donation by encouraging employers to remove financial barriers for living donors, with membership growing significantly in 2025. Ongoing advocacy efforts continue to drive stronger HR policies and progress toward a more equitable, accessible transplant system for Canadians.



Anne Huang, Whitehorse, YT

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