



Umara Alvi, Sumbul Ahmed and Mahmood Hasan Ansari (left to right) from team Rehana's Renal Rebels.



2025 IMPACT REPORT

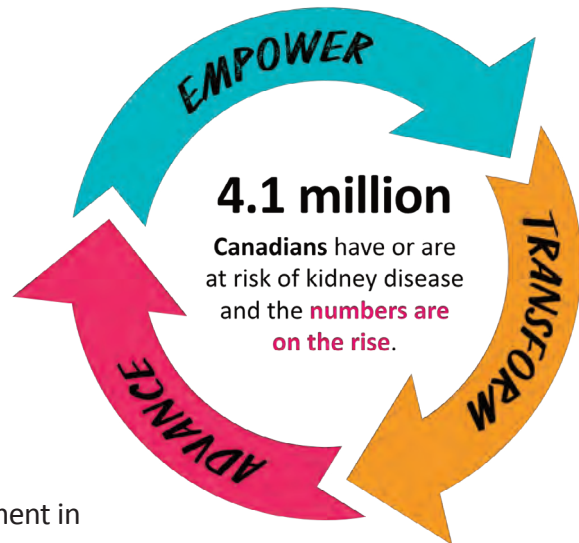


Message from our National President and National Executive Director

In 2025, The Kidney Foundation launched an ambitious new strategic plan to change the course of kidney disease by 2030. The plan reaffirmed and clarified our commitment to every Canadian living with or at risk of kidney disease. We are empowering thousands of Canadians living with kidney disease through our support and education programs, advocating to eliminate systemic barriers to treatment care, and investing in transformational research that will change the face of this disease for good.

For more than 60 years, The Kidney Foundation's investment in research grants and capacity building programs have strengthened the Canadian ecosystem so that Canadians benefit from research innovation. Today, we are seeing those investments bear fruit with new medications and new indications for kidney disease becoming accessible, most notably to prevent or delay the progression of kidney disease.

In 2025, we continued that critical investment in collaborative, multidisciplinary research, supporting over 515 Canadian researchers with a total of \$4.5M. We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of KRESCENT, a gold-standard training program that has profoundly impacted the careers of over 100 researchers across the country. We are also finding new ways to support innovative clinical research. For example, we partnered with the *Consortium Québécois sur la Découverte du Médicament (CQDM)* to establish the Center of Excellence for Comprehensive Diagnosis and Treatment of Complement Diseases.



Developed through nationwide consultation, our theory of change reflects the realities of kidney disease in Canada today and the urgent need for action.

Learn more about the impact we're working towards and how we'll achieve it.



Our advocacy efforts to have kidney disease recognized as a chronic disease and urgent public health priority are also bringing much needed results. New global data have shown the impact of chronic kidney disease has substantially increased over the past three decades, with mortality in Canada rising by more than 70% since 1990ⁱ. This data provided a sobering backdrop for discussions with provincial and federal decision makers in 2025 as we continued to raise awareness of the need to move from high-cost, reactive care to proactive, early detection and equitable treatment. In the past year, we hosted roundtable discussions with federal and provincial policymakers on the burden of chronic kidney disease, engaging with decision-makers at both levels of government in preparation for the launch of our National Strategic Framework for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in March, 2026.

And of course, we continue to meet the immediate needs of those living with or at risk of chronic kidney disease through our support and education programs. Whether they receive a patient booklet, join a peer support meeting, attend a cooking demonstration, or learn more about their risk factors through our online risk awareness tool, we are giving Canadians the tools and resources they need to take control of their kidney health. At Kidney Walks from coast to coast to coast, we are introducing people impacted by kidney disease to a supportive community, so no one has to face it alone. And when times get tough, we are there. In 2025, we disbursed over \$1.2M in emergency financial assistance to ensure the basic needs of people living with CKD are met.

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers and dedicated staff team. Whether they are directly involved in mission program delivery or working tirelessly to set our organization up for success, each and every one is committed to standing firm with the more than 4 million Canadians living with or at risk of kidney disease – no matter who they are, where they live, or where they are on their journey. Our sincere thanks to them and to all our supporters who bring our mission to life.

ⁱ Mark P, Stafford L, Grams M et al. (2025). Global, regional, and national burden of chronic kidney disease in adults, 1990–2023, and its attributable risk factors: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023. The Lancet, 406, 2461-2482



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurtis Krug".

KURTIS KRUG
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Myles".

ELIZABETH MYLES
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EMPOWER

Through our support and education programs, we are changing lives every day. We give Canadians the knowledge and tools to take control of their kidney health and connect them to a supportive community, so that no one faces kidney disease alone.

PHOTO: Chef Paul Natrall (Mr. Bannock) and his sous-chef son, Paul Jr., share Indigenous-inspired cooking techniques and recipes with Dani Renouf (RD, MSc, CDR) on a Kidney PLUGGED IN holiday episode of kidney-friendly cooking (December 2025).

EMPOWER

Creating Belonging Through Connection



Across Canada, The Kidney Foundation is bringing people together—creating a powerful, united community where no one has to face kidney disease alone. From peer-to-peer connections, to walking together in solidarity, to coming together to raise awareness of organ donation and transplantation, these moments transform isolation into belonging and support into strength.

For individuals navigating kidney disease, the journey can feel overwhelming and uncertain. Through one-on-one conversations, support groups, and online platforms, Peer Support connects people with others who understand. Trained volunteers offer reassurance rooted in lived experience. These moments of connection help people feel seen, heard, and supported at every stage of their journey.

These types of individual connections often become the foundation for something bigger and draw people into a wider community of care and support.



And all these people in green shirts they were there for hope and motion, and I just started to cry because I felt, here's our other family. Here's people like us.

— **WENDY CLAY**, GREEN SHIRT DAY EVENT PARTICIPANT



4,053

PEOPLE CONNECTED THROUGH PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS ACROSS CANADA

That sense of community comes to life each year through the Kidney Walk. In cities and towns across the country, thousands gather to walk side by side and show their support for loved ones, while raising critical funds for kidney research and patient programs. The walk is more than an event; it is a shared experience of hope, resilience, and empowerment.

These moments of connection extend throughout the year through awareness initiatives like Green Shirt Day, which brings people together on April 7 to honour organ donors and inspire others to register their decision to give life. By wearing green, Canadians join a collective movement to spark important conversation about the life-changing topic of organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

These initiatives all create opportunities for connection, alleviating the feelings of uncertainty and isolation that contribute to the emotional toll of living with kidney disease. Together, we are not only supporting each other as individuals today, but taking action to change the course of kidney disease for future generations.



90
IN-PERSON
AND VIRTUAL WALKS

5,038
PARTICIPANTS

\$3.1M
RAISED



PHOTO: Green Shirt Day related events organized by The Kidney Foundation included a 2km walk in Calgary, to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation.

Our Kidney Walk Pinnacle Club

Pinnacle Club members represent an extraordinary group of Kidney Walk participants whose leadership and commitment set them apart. By achieving the outstanding milestone of raising \$5,000 or more in personal fund-raising, these individuals demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing kidney health and supporting Canadians living with kidney disease. Their generosity not only fuels vital programs, research, and advocacy, but also inspires others across the country to aim higher and give more.

We are deeply grateful for their remarkable contributions and proud to recognize them as members of the exclusive Kidney Walk Pinnacle Club.

OUR CLUB MEMBERS

- Elaine Andrews
- Sadia Baig
- Diane Bérubé
- George Bradley
- Sharon Bradley
- Todd Brophy
- Scott Brown
- Harry Brownlow
- Laura Cameron
- Leesa Carter
- Anthony Chadala
- Jeff Costley
- Steve Cutting
- Donovan Debattista
- Meaghan Deslieres
- Aman Dial
- Susan Firman
- Gus-Rose Guzman
- Sarah Hobbins
- Stephanie Hudon
- Angeline Jadoonanan
- Amol Kapoor
- Carmen Komish
- La famille Groom
- Mark Lambert
- Marc-Antoine Lavallée
- Roselyn Le Cours
- Annick Lim
- Alexis MacKay-Dunn
- Melissa MaGee
- Brenda Maillet
- Amanie Mankatala
- Maxime Martineau
- Krista Matthews
- Jason McAdoo
- David McKeague
- Roberta McLean
- Michelle Morant
- Carmen Morris
- Colin Morrison
- Norman Muirhead
- Rhonda Noll
- Tracy Patrick
- Gurjit Pawar
- Cathy Pennington
- Lance Plamondon
- Chris Przeworski
- Uzma Quadri
- Randall Russell
- Goldie Schlanger
- Ranjeev Sethi
- Kuldip Singh
- Marlene Smith
- Kevin Stacey
- Debbie Timpson
- Taylor Vanderwey
- Tanja Viveiros
- Jordan Weller
- Michelle C. Wong
- Tanya Work
- Dianne Yeboah

EMPOWER

Community-driven partnership offers practical guidance and support

Kidney disease disproportionately affects Black communities, yet many who are navigating kidney disease do not see their experiences, cultures, or perspectives reflected in mainstream health information and support. This disconnect can make an already difficult diagnosis feel even more isolating. In 2025, Can-SOLVE CKD, a national patient-oriented kidney research network, led the development of a two-part webinar series in partnership with The Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Black Health Alliance (BHA). Guided by insights directly from the community, the goal was to provide culturally relevant kidney health education for Black communities in Canada.

At its core, this initiative was about more than education. It was about ensuring Black communities have access to relevant, affirming, and actionable tools that reflect their lived experiences and support them beyond a single conversation. It also demonstrated the importance of patient-oriented research and effective knowledge translation, ensuring that evidence and resources are shaped by and shared with the communities they are intended to serve.

The first webinar in the series focused on protecting Black kidney health through prevention, early intervention, and culturally informed care. The second highlighted community-specific research initiatives and opportunities for engagement. Participants were also provided with a tailored handout to reinforce learning and support ongoing self-management of their health.

“When you are hearing culturally appropriate information, it does help you come to terms a little bit easier with your new diagnosis and how to better protect yourself. It gives you a sense of direction and belonging.

— **OMO ENILAMA**, RESEARCH COORDINATOR AT THE CAN-SOLVE CKD NETWORK

The Kidney Foundation of Canada played a critical role in making this collaboration a success. “As one of the country’s most recognized and trusted non-profit organizations, The Kidney Foundation brought credibility, reach, and essential resources that strengthened the project,” says Omo Enilama, Research Coordinator at the Can-SOLVE CKD Network and one of the key collaborators. “Their involvement helped reassure patients, amplify visibility, and ensure the educational materials, including the information sheet, were accessible, reliable, and impactful.”

In 2024, Can-SOLVE CKD launched a Canada-wide survey to better understand what kidney health topics mattered most to Black communities, which innovations they wanted to learn about, and how they preferred to receive information. The results of that survey shaped every aspect of the initiative.

This collaboration sets a clear path forward by prioritizing education and research that centers Black kidney health and responds to community-identified needs. By continuing to ask how communities want knowledge shared and acting on those insights, we can ensure research and education are accessible, relevant, and create lasting, equitable impact.

EMPOWER

Emergency financial support provides a lifeline in times of crisis

The impact of kidney disease extends far beyond the need for medical care. As the cost of living continues to increase, so do the out-of-pocket expenses associated with managing kidney disease, forcing some people to choose between managing their health and meeting essential living expenses.

The Kidney Foundation of Canada's Short-Term Financial Assistance (STFA) program can make all the difference. The program helps patients navigate immediate financial pressures when all other options have been exhausted. The Kidney Foundation works in partnership with renal social workers, who may identify the program as an option and support patients through the application process.

“Financial assistance offered by The Kidney Foundation is literally a lifesaver. Having even a bit of a reprieve from some of these mounting obstacles can make a huge difference in the lives of our patients. It feels to them like someone is listening, understands, and cares.

— **CORRINE MACNAB**, MSW, RSW, RENAL SOCIAL WORKER



Demand for emergency financial assistance has increased dramatically since 2020, as economic pressures have continued to rise.

\$1.2M
IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
DISBURSED IN 2025

For one couple, the financial strain of living with kidney disease became overwhelming. When unexpected household expenses arose, they faced the very real risk of losing their housing. The support they received through the STFA program helped them regain their footing, preventing eviction and providing relief during a very difficult time. *“You have no idea how much gratitude I have towards your Foundation...thank you,”* John stated.

For individuals in rural communities, who often must travel great distances to treatment and medical appointments, these supports can be particularly critical. *“The Kidney Foundation has helped me tremendously over the past year with gas and grocery gift cards. Being on dialysis is tough, and this support really means a lot to me.”* — Dale, patient.

7,165
GRANTS AWARDED
IN 2025



TRANSFORM

Through our coordinated advocacy efforts, we are breaking down the systemic barriers that limit access to care for thousands of Canadians across the country. We are pushing for earlier diagnosis, access to medications that delay progression and improve quality of life, reimbursement of travel costs, and improved access to transplant.

PHOTO: On World Kidney Day, March 13 2026, we launched our National Strategic Framework for CKD at a roundtable sponsored by MP Parm Bains. Patients shared powerful lived experiences directly with policymakers, helping bring urgency, perspective, and a human voice to the need for action on kidney disease.

TRANSFORM

Canada's First National Strategic Framework Is Released



Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a growing but often invisible health crisis in Canada. Today, 1 in 10 Canadians lives with kidney disease, yet many don't know it until it's too late. New global data released in 2025 showed that kidney-related deaths in Canada have risen significantly over time, highlighting the urgent need for prevention, earlier diagnosis, and stronger national action.



In response to this growing crisis, The Kidney Foundation of Canada intensified our advocacy efforts to improve kidney health across the country. Those efforts reached a historic milestone on World Kidney Day in March 2026 with the release of Canada's first National Strategic Framework for Chronic Kidney Disease.

This framework is more than a report — it is a clear plan to transform how kidney disease is prevented, detected, and treated across the country. It outlines three key priorities:

- Catching kidney disease earlier through better prevention and targeted screening
- Ensuring fair access to care, no matter where someone lives
- Strengthening research and data to improve treatments and outcomes

The Kidney Foundation engaged Canadians affected by kidney disease and encouraged them to raise their voices, connect with their elected leaders, and call for a coordinated national response to CKD. Through an online letterwriting platform, Canadians shared their personal stories about how kidney disease has impacted their lives. They called on government to recognize the burden of kidney disease and to prioritize prevention, early diagnosis and intervention, equitable access to care, and evidence-informed policy. Hundreds have also signed a formal petition calling on the federal government to address CKD and adopt the framework.

A unified framework for Canada

PRIORITIZE PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION, AND TIMELY INTERVENTION:

Move beyond treating kidney failure to actively mitigating risk factors like diabetes and hypertension, and implementing systematic screening so Canadians are diagnosed early when serious kidney damage can still be delayed or prevented.

ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO KIDNEY CARE FOR ALL CANADIANS:

Address systemic barriers by expanding culturally competent, multidisciplinary care, including increasing access to new treatments and medicines, especially in the early stages of the disease.

ADVANCE RESEARCH AND DATA FOR BETTER KIDNEY HEALTH:

Invest in innovative research and leverage existing data infrastructure to strengthen evidence-based decision-making, and ensure that new discoveries are rapidly translated into practice.

Representatives from The Kidney Foundation also visited Parliament Hill twice - once in Fall 2025 and again this past March during the framework launch, meeting face-to-face with elected officials, policy makers, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to increase visibility and awareness of both CKD and The Kidney Foundation, and discuss the specific actions they can take to support people affected by kidney disease.

Several important milestones resulted from these efforts:

- MP Ziad Aboultaif submitted Written Question Q-607 on CKD in the House of Commons
- MP Parm Bains sponsored the policy roundtable where the National Strategic Framework for CKD was released
- MP Parm Bains delivered a statement in House of Commons highlighting kidney disease and the Framework
- Senator Tony Loffreda questioned the Health Minister about adopting the Framework during Ministerial Question Period
- Representatives from The Kidney Foundation attended and were recognized during a Senate session

PHOTO: *(From left to right)* Maggie Chi, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health; Elizabeth Myles, Kidney Foundation National Executive Director; The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health; Kurtis Krug, Kidney Foundation National Board President; Carrie Thibodeau, Kidney Foundation National Director of Programs and Public Policy; Monica Beltran Espitia, Kidney Foundation National Manager of Health Policy and Government Relations; and Vince Andrews, Kidney Foundation National Board Vice President.



“

When I would share my perspective of working with Indigenous patients and the barriers that all of the systems impose on them, the room would get eerily quiet. In that moment, they really heard me. Working as a front line social worker in kidney health in rural Saskatchewan is difficult but advocating on Parliament Hill reminded me that there is hope for future generations of children who will one day be diagnosed with kidney disease.

— **TINA HUGO**, HEALTH NAVIGATOR,
PASIKOW MUSKWA RISING BEAR HEALING CENTRE



PHOTO: (From left to right) Francine Girard-Griffith, living donor; Sylvie Charbonneau, living donor; Senator Tony Loffredo; and Tina Hugo, Health Navigator, Pasikow Muskwa Rising Bear Healing Centre.

In addition to the federal advocacy, policy roundtables and parliamentary advocacy took place in Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Ontario in 2025. Ongoing conversations, meetings, and correspondence with decision-makers help build growing recognition that kidney disease is both a serious health issue and a major financial burden on Canada’s health care system.

The National Strategic Framework for CKD gives governments a practical path forward in moving the health-care system from a reactive system to one that is proactive and sustainable. With continued momentum, this work has the potential to transform kidney care in Canada.

For patients and families, this means better health, fewer disruptions to daily life, and more time to live well. For our healthcare system, it means reducing the human and financial cost of a disease that has been overlooked for far too long.

TRANSFORM

Connecting primary care and policy action to improve early detection

In the fall of 2025, The Kidney Foundation of Canada expanded its provincial advocacy efforts by hosting a kidney health policy roundtable to identify solutions that could improve prevention, early diagnosis, and access to care for people living with CKD in Ontario.

Building on discussions held earlier in the year in Alberta and Nova Scotia, the event brought together leaders from across the kidney community including nephrologists, allied health professionals, patients, caregivers, and policy leaders, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives shaped the discussion.

Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of Ontario's Primary Care Action Team, agreed that engaging primary care providers is vital to improve early detection of kidney disease and coordinated care.

Several priorities were identified, including:

- better screening guidelines
- culturally competent care
- stronger support for patients navigating the healthcare system
- improved coordination between healthcare providers

Building on the momentum from the roundtable, representatives from The Kidney Foundation met with 19 Ontario MPPs to raise awareness of the growing impact of CKD and the need for provincial action.

These meetings led several MPPs to send letters to the federal Minister of Health in support of stronger national action on kidney disease and the adoption of The Kidney Foundation of Canada's National Strategic Framework for CKD.

Together, these efforts helped elevate kidney disease as a provincial health priority and strengthened relationships with policymakers committed to improving kidney health in Ontario.

PHOTO: Among those attending an Ontario Kidney Health Roundtable organized by The Kidney Foundation were, left to right, Elizabeth Myles, Kidney Foundation National Executive Director; Jane Philpott, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team, Ontario Public Service; and Carrie Thibodeau, Kidney Foundation National Director of Programs and Public Policy.



Revealing The Economic and Financial Burden of Kidney Disease

In 2026, The Kidney Foundation of Canada will release critical new evidence on the burden of kidney disease through reports exposing both its growing economic impact on Canada's health care system and the significant financial strain experienced by patients and families.

A new report titled *Health Economic Impact of Improving Chronic Kidney Disease Management in Canada*, commissioned from Deloitte by the Foundation and released in May, illustrates the prevalence and cost burden of CKD in Canada and demonstrates the impact of improving CKD management through earlier detection and intervention.



6.2+ million

CANADIANS ARE PROJECTED TO HAVE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE BY 2050,
WITH NEARLY HALF BEING MODERATE TO SEVERE CASES.

We will also examine the financial burden faced by patients and families who are affected by kidney disease. Based on data collected from a 2025 survey conducted in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Nephrology Social Workers (CANSW), the report, which The Kidney Foundation will release later in 2026, captures the financial realities of people living with kidney failure.

For many, particularly those on dialysis, income declines just as out-of-pocket expenses begin to rise, including transportation to receive care, medication, and other treatment-related costs.

The findings also reveal that uneven access to financial supports across Canada can deepen existing inequities. Government coverage and financial assistance for people requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant vary widely by province, creating disparities in access, quality of life, and long-term outcomes.

By bringing these realities to light, The Kidney Foundation of Canada is helping build the evidence needed to drive policy change, improve equity in kidney care, and reduce the burden of kidney disease on Canadians. Together, these reports reinforce the need for urgent action, earlier diagnosis, and better support for Canadians living with kidney disease.



ADVANCE

Through our partnerships and targeted investments, we are driving research that will change the course of kidney disease. We are focused on funding innovations that will lead to earlier detection, better treatments, and breakthroughs in transplant that have the potential to reshape the future of kidney health.

PHOTO: Dr. Mathieu Lemaire is the KRESCENT Program Director. He is a staff physician in the Division of Nephrology at SickKids, a scientist in the Cell Biology Program at SickKids Research Institute, and an associate professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto.


ADVANCE

Investing in Discovery, Improving Lives: 20 Years of KRESCENT



For 20 years, the KRESCENT program has been shaping the future of kidney health in Canada —by investing in the people behind the science. Launched in 2005, KRESCENT was designed with the idea that strengthening kidney research in Canada would result in better outcomes for patients. By supporting early-career scientists and fostering collaboration across disciplines, KRESCENT has successfully created a national network of researchers working together to better understand, prevent, and treat kidney disease.

At a time when chronic kidney disease continues to affect 1 in 10 Canadians, this investment is more important than ever. Progress in early detection, treatment, and care depends on having skilled, innovative researchers dedicated to solving complex challenges.



AT A GLANCE

- 20 years** of advancing kidney research in Canada
- 100+ trainees** supported since 2005
- 5,000+** research publications generated by alumni
- ~ 60%** of alumni in leadership roles
- A national collaborative network** of kidney researchers driving innovation

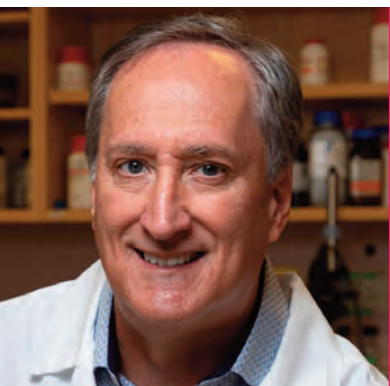
Over the past two decades, KRESCENT has trained more than 100 researchers, helping launch careers that continue to shape kidney health today. Many of these individuals are now leaders in their respective fields; they are driving new discoveries, mentoring emerging talent, and strengthening Canada’s research capacity.

This long-term approach is what makes KRESCENT so valuable. Each researcher supported through the program goes on to generate new knowledge, attract funding, and contribute to solutions that improve patient care. The impact grows over time, extending far beyond the initial investment.

KRESCENT’s unique, interdisciplinary model encourages researchers to work across traditional boundaries. By connecting clinical, biomedical, and community perspectives, the program accelerates innovation and ensures research is relevant to the real needs of patients and families.

In 2018, KRESCENT 2.0 expanded this approach even further, introducing new training opportunities and strengthening the role of lived experience in shaping research priorities.

As KRESCENT marks its 20th anniversary, the impact of this lasting investment in research progress is evident across Canada, demonstrated by stronger research systems, more collaborative networks, and a growing body of knowledge that is improving kidney care.



“The novelty of the program was to create a curriculum that trained people to appreciate all the other disciplines of kidney research across Canada and encouraged collaboration across these research pillars.

— DR. KEVIN BURNS, CO-FOUNDER AND FIRST PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF KRESCENT

ADVANCE

Innovative Project Aims to Reduce Readmissions to Hospital

For people living with kidney disease, leaving the hospital is not always the end of a health crisis — it can be the beginning of another. Data shows that across Canada, individuals with chronic kidney disease are hospitalized at significantly higher rates than the general population and that nearly one in four will be readmitted within just one month.

The EQUIP Re-CKD Project, supported and co-funded by the Kidney Foundation of Canada, is working to change that. This initiative brings together researchers, healthcare providers, and patient partners with the goal of identifying means to reduce preventable hospital readmissions.

Led by Dr. Meghan Elliott at the University of Calgary, the collaborative project spans multiple provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario.

“ This work will be an important step toward personalizing medical and social supports for those with greatest need.

— DR. MEGHAN ELLIOTT, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



While medical factors such as disease progression and treatment complications are part of the reason for readmissions, this project is breaking new ground by focusing on the social determinants of health. It explores how income, housing, access to food, education, and social support can impact a person’s ability to stay well.

Nazret Russon, whose personal experiences have motivated her to become a patient partner for this project, said “I am hoping to shed light on what our lives are like with kidney disease. I am optimistic that our experiences will help patients and caregivers have a better quality of life.”

Researchers are developing a predictive tool to help patients and healthcare providers better understand an individual’s risk of readmission, data which can then be used to enable more informed, proactive care. At the same time, the team is designing personalized support strategies that address both medical and social needs.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this collaborative, interdisciplinary team that will help to shed light on how the social circumstances of people living with kidney disease influence their access to hospital-based care, said Dr. Elliott. “This work will be an important step toward personalizing medical and social supports for those with greatest need.”

The Kidney Foundation’s investment in this work reflects its broader commitment to advancing equity, improving patient outcomes, and supporting innovative, patient-centered research across Canada. With nearly 400,000 Canadians with kidney disease hospitalized each year, a reduction in readmissions could transform thousands of lives.

ADVANCE

Refining Our Research Strategy For Greater Impact

Investing in research is central to The Kidney Foundation of Canada's goal of changing the course of kidney disease by 2030. By generating new evidence and accelerating innovation, research helps drive earlier diagnosis, stronger prevention, better treatments, and improved transplant outcomes — advances that can transform lives today and for generations to come.

To advance this vision, the Foundation began developing a new research strategy in the fall of 2025. It focuses on three priority areas, which together will ensure research investments are focused where they can deliver the greatest impact:

- achieving earlier diagnosis and improving kidney disease prevention
- improving clinical treatments to slow disease progression and enhance quality of life
- accelerating transplant innovations to improve outcomes.

This will be the first major update in several years, says Leanne Stalker, National Director of Research. She points to the Kidney Health Research Grant Program, which has received only minor updates since the early 2000s. The program funds investigator-driven research, which will remain an integral part of the Foundation's funding portfolio. "While creating opportunities to support to priority areas is crucial, maintaining space for investigator-driven science remains an essential piece of the research puzzle. It's all about balance."

“ While creating opportunities to support to priority areas is crucial, maintaining space for investigator-driven science remains an essential piece of the research puzzle. It's all about balance.

— LEANNE STALKER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



While research priorities have reflected a wide range of partner interests, the updated approach narrows the focus to areas where research can most effectively drive change and aligns more closely to the Foundation's overall impact goals. "Work is also underway to strengthen how the impact of research investments is evaluated, allowing us to more clearly demonstrate how funding decisions lead to meaningful outcomes for people affected by kidney disease and supporting more informed and effective investments in partnerships and grant design," said Leanne.

In the coming months, researchers, partners, and other key stakeholders will be invited to provide feedback on the draft research strategy.

Stalker is optimistic about the change the updated strategy can drive over the coming years. "Research is an investment in hope, and a mechanism to change the future. Results that produce meaningful change have the possibility to impact entire generations of patients and their communities."

Research Impact 2025



\$4,516,720

TOTAL INVESTED
IN 2025

\$2,339,453

ADDITIONAL \$
LEVERAGED

\$147.7M

TOTAL CUMULATIVE INVESTMENT
SINCE 1964



547

RESEARCHERS
SUPPORTED



30

RESEARCH INSTITUTES
RECEIVED FUNDING



7

PARTNERSHIPS IN LARGE
NETWORKS/GRANTS

Types of Funding

60 Kidney Health Research Grants

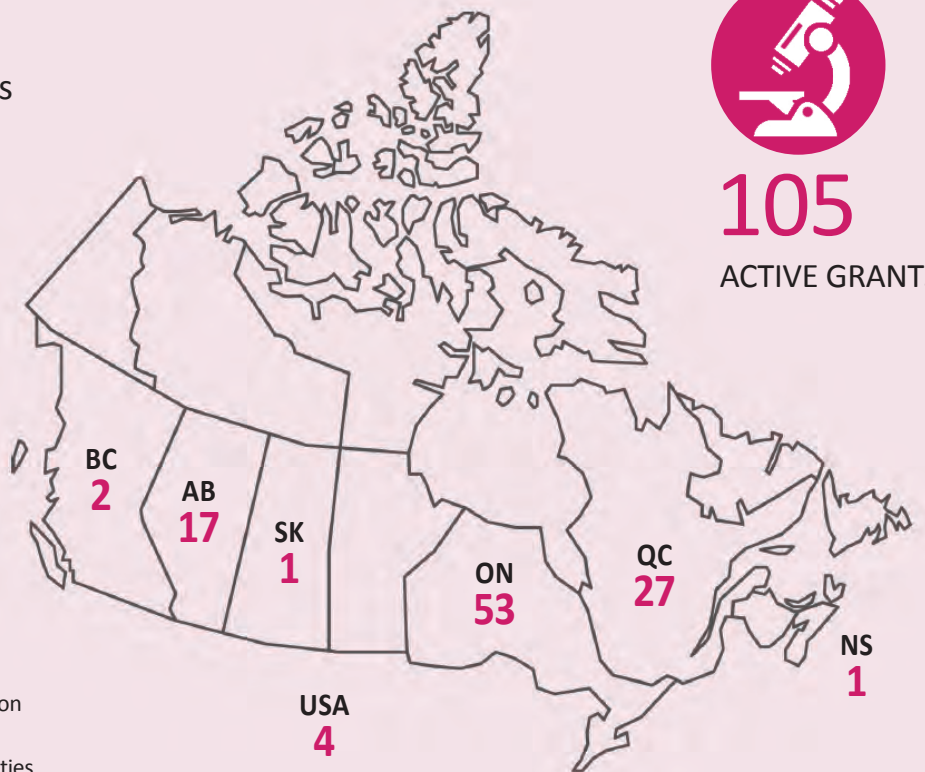
27 KRESCENT Fellowships

11 Allied Health Research

7 Partnerships

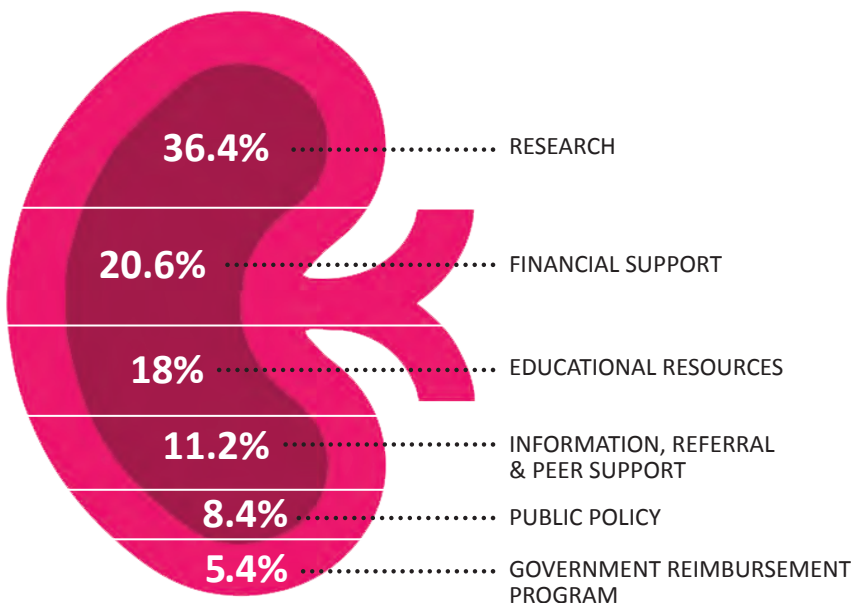
RESEARCH THEMES

- Acute Kidney Injury
- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Clinical Psychology
- Diabetes
- Dialysis
- Genetics
- Glomerulonephritis
- Health Policy
- Health Economics
- Hypertension
- Kidney Biology
- Kidney Development
- Nursing
- Organ Donation
- Patient Care
- Population Health
- Predictive Biomarkers
- Quality of Life
- Renal Failure
- Screening and prevention
- Transplantation
- Underserved Communities
- Urology
- Water / Salt and Calcium Handling by the Kidney



Financial Breakdown 2025

Thanks to the generous support of donors and partners, The Kidney Foundation of Canada's program investments ensure improved kidney health and greater supports and services for all people impacted by kidney disease.



2025 Highlights



118,972
EDUCATIONAL
MATERIALS
DISTRIBUTED



8,530
PARTICIPATED
IN VIRTUAL
EDUCATIONAL
EVENTS



362
CHILDREN AND ADULTS
RECEIVING FUNDING
TO ATTEND SUMMER
CAMPS

**ONLINE
ENGAGEMENT**



80,516
ENEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

1.5
MILLION
VISITORS TO OUR
WEBSITES

92,712
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

**VOLUNTEER
SUPPORT**



52,989 + 1,971
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
VOLUNTEER HOURS
FOR RESEARCH-
RELATED
INITIATIVES

The Kidney Foundation is so grateful for the hours of dedication from our many volunteers who are engaged in everything from office support and events to programs and education to engagement with research. Clinicians, researchers, allied health professionals, partners, and people with lived experience contribute valuable hours out of their busy schedules to help us succeed.

2025-2026

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The Kidney Foundation of Canada's audited financial statements are available online at <https://kidney.ca/en/about-us/overview>. In the overview section you will find the Annual Reports and Financial Statements.

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THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE HEALTH CHARITIES COALITION OF CANADA (HCCC) AND HEALTHPARTNERS.



Founded in 2000, HCCC is a member-based organization comprised of national health charities and patient groups who represent the voice of patients at all levels of the health continuum. Our mandate is leading national collective action on health policy and health research to benefit patients living in Canada.



HealthPartners is a collective, fundraising with workplaces nationwide for 20 of Canada's most trusted health charities. These charities, including our own, are at the forefront of direct support, advocacy and research in the fight against the medical conditions that will likely affect 9 in 10 of us in our lifetimes. Virtually everyone has a connection to one of the charities. So, HealthPartners makes it easy for virtually anyone to join them in transforming lives while building a healthier Canada.



Sophia and her best friend Kinley walk in honor of Joy.

