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LUPUS SOCIETY

◆ ***Our Mission is:***

To support advances in research and treatments; to create public awareness; to provide education and support to people affected by lupus.

◆ ***Our Vision is:***

- That early diagnosis and optimal treatment will be available to everyone with lupus
- That the public at large will be aware of lupus
- To ensure community based support networks and services

◆ ***Where we came from:***

In 1977 a group of lupus patients, with the support of three rheumatologists, formed a support group, known as the Lupus Erythematosus Group (L.E.G.). With an increasing membership and expanding representation throughout the province, the name was changed to the B.C. Lupus Association in 1980. In January 1993 the group was incorporated as an official non-profit society in accordance with the Society Act, and the name was changed to the B.C. Lupus Society. In 2007 the BC Lupus Society celebrated 30 years of working together to conquer lupus.

◆ ***Who we are:***

The Lupus Society is a volunteer, community-based non-profit society and the only BC organization committed solely to providing education and support to lupus patients and their families.

The Lupus Society is incorporated province-wide, with members residing across the country and internationally, as far away as Singapore and Hong Kong. An extensive volunteer network of 8 support groups and 33 provincial contacts, we provide a wide variety of services which link the Lupus Society to thousands of people touched by lupus.

The Lupus Society sponsors and assists in the development of location support groups and provides access to literature on lupus and coping with this chronic illness. The Society also organizes education meetings and seminars where medical and professional resource people discuss all aspects of lupus including new trends in research.

There are many dedicated volunteers throughout the province. Their continued dedication, enthusiasm and support is integral to the success of the Lupus Society. Our support groups, provincial contacts and chapters provide information and support to those in their communities, actively participating in public awareness campaigns and initiating fundraising efforts. As well, there are other valued and committed volunteers who generously donate their time to various on going and special projects.

The Board of Directors is comprised of up to ten volunteers, who are elected into their position at the Annual General Meeting. Their responsibilities and activities range from reviewing and assessing the needs of the Lupus Society membership; sourcing, researching, developing and implementing programs and services to best fulfill these needs; initiating fundraising activities and grant application funding; liaising with the medical community and government regarding advocacy and education; assisting in the development of national programs and campaigns; liaising with other lupus organizations throughout the world.



LUPUS SOCIETY

Our services include:

◆ **Education**

- Hosting the annual Symposium for the lupus community including health care professionals and our members.
- Publication of the quarterly newsletter "The Lupus Lighthouse".
- Distribution of information packages, books and videos.
- Maintaining a current library of pamphlets, books, videos and articles.
- Networking with international lupus organizations for the purpose of sharing updated and significant information.
- Sustaining a website database with information from world renowned lupus experts including transcripts from our annual Lupus Symposium.

◆ **Support**

- Providing resource information and peer support, on-going communication and information sharing.
- By partnering with St. Paul's Hospital Lupus Clinic, initial treatment recommendations are available for newly diagnosed. For those who have lupus that is difficult to manage, consultative services are also available.
- Responding to requests for information by members and health care professionals.
- Assisting with the development of educational materials, as needed for Outreach programs.
- Liaising with physicians, specialists and other health care professionals to develop an information network.
- Sustaining a network of 33 provincial contacts and 8 support groups across the province.

◆ **Awareness**

- Facilitating the World Lupus Day and October Awareness Campaigns that are highlighted by Walk a Block for Lupus and the educational symposium, and further supported by advertising campaigns in the various news media.
- Developing links with the medical community in general, as well as the Division of Rheumatology.

◆ **Research**

- Providing funding support for research initiatives locally and nationally, including research scholarships, clinical support, and research projects.
- In 2007 the BC Lupus Society announced that plans are in place to retain our own Lupus Research Scholar, Dr. Antonio Avina, working out of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada in Vancouver.
- Ongoing support of national research initiatives through Canadian Network for Improved Outcomes in SLE (CaNIOS).