



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.*

August 14, 2014

Partners in Teaching

EPILEPSY AWARENESS FOR SCHOOLS

Going back to or starting school is an exciting time for children and parents. Getting new school supplies, meeting new classmates, working with a new teacher, and perhaps even going to a new school!

The BC Epilepsy Society has excellent resources and services to assist you in this transition. These include information materials, seizure awareness workshops, and classroom resource kits.

Our materials and workshops provide accurate, up-to-date, clear, and concise facts about epilepsy for teachers and students. These help to ensure a safe and supportive environment for those with epilepsy.

Below are documents and services to assist you in your child's successful transition to school:

Partners in Teaching Program: Provides free seizure awareness workshops for teachers and students. [Click here](#) for a letter to give to your child's school about the Partners in Teaching program.

School and Parent Partnerships Information Sheet: Gives practical advice to parents about advocacy and communication with school personnel, as well as an overview of school support services.

Understanding Students with Epilepsy: Tips for Teachers: Describes impacts of seizures on learning and gives suggestions on how to support children with epilepsy in the classroom.

Epilepsy Fact Sheet: Answers common questions about seizures and epilepsy.

Seizure First Aid Poster: Details first aid for different seizure types.

Epilepsy and Seizure Information for Schools DVD: Explains facts about seizures and epilepsy, recognizing seizures and first aid, learning difficulties, and teaching strategies to assist those with epilepsy.

Partners in Teaching Classroom Resource Kits: Consists of resources to teach kids about epilepsy and seizures.

For more information about our workshops and school resources, please call 604-875-6704 or email outreach@bcepilepsy.com

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners!

"I AM STRONG...I HAVE EPILEPSY"

We are proud to announce that we have awarded eight \$1000 scholarships to people with epilepsy in BC.

The scholarship winners came from diverse backgrounds and will be entering or continuing post-secondary studies in a range of fields.

Several of the winners do epilepsy awareness work in their communities. This includes working with epilepsy support groups, organizing Purple Day events, and providing peer counselling to other people with epilepsy.

One of the winners has persevered despite having several brain surgeries during childhood and a stroke as a result of one of them. He is still recovering from walking problems as a result of this. Despite this, he was able to overcome his limitations and he was accepted into the highly competitive computerized mechanist program at BCIT.

A recent diagnosis of epilepsy ended the child care business that one woman had run. She will be using the scholarship to help get the skills to start a new career.

A high school student spoke about how his challenges with epilepsy were so difficult to cope with that he had to stop attending high school for several years. Because of this he had to struggle to keep up with his classmates by taking his courses online at home.

The parents of a young woman with epilepsy and mild cerebral palsy were told by her first grade teacher that she would probably never learn to read. However she has just graduated with an 'A' average, has won numerous community service awards, and will be entering college this fall to learn to become an elementary school teacher.

Two of the winners mentioned their desire to have a career that would also support their parents – who both have chronic medical conditions. One has a parent who also has epilepsy and another has a parent with Crohn's Disease.

Each applicant submitted an essay about their experiences with epilepsy. One of them

ended her essay with the statement: **“I am strong. I am powerful. I have epilepsy”**

We are proud to have supported these individuals, and look forward to contributing to the success of many more each year.

If you would like to help us fund scholarships, please contact our Executive Director Shawn Laari at 604-875-6704 Ext. 12 or at laari@bcepilepsy.com

News Updates

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE

New Epilepsy Medication Available in Canada

Health Canada has approved Aptiom (eslicarbazepine acetate) for use as a once-daily add-on medication for the treatment of partial-onset seizures. This is for people with epilepsy who are not satisfactorily controlled with conventional therapy. [Click here](#) for more information about eslicarbazepine acetate.

First Seizure: Information Guide for Patients and Families

A new brochure has been published for people after having their first seizure. It was developed to give out in hospital emergency rooms after someone has their first seizure. It was written in conjunction with BC Epilepsy Society staff and a neurologist from our Professional Advisory Committee. [Click here](#) to read this brochure.

Online Support Group

This support group is for BC residents who are affected by epilepsy. This includes family, friends, or caregivers. It is a live online chat session. It happens the 1st Tuesday of every month from 7 to 8 pm.

The first half of the meeting is a structured talk about the medical aspects of epilepsy. Some of the topics that have been addressed include memory difficulties in epilepsy, sleep problems, and epilepsy and diet. The second half is an open forum where people can discuss their experiences and speak with others with similar challenges.

For information about how to access this, please contact Jas Lachar at services@bcepilepsy.com or at 604-875-6704. The next meeting will be on September 2nd.

Lecture on Genetics and Epilepsy: September 30th

Epilepsy can be caused by many different disorders. Genetic factors have been shown to play a role in these. To learn more come out to our lecture on genetics and epilepsy on Tuesday, September 30th from 7-8:30 pm at the Chan Centre for Family Health Education, Room 2108 at Children’s and Women’s Health Centre of BC on 4408 Oak

Street.

Please note that a video recording and copy of the presentation slides from the Sleep and Epilepsy lecture are now available on our website. Our October lecture will be on Epilepsy and Memory and our November lecture will be on Epilepsy Medications.

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The BC Epilepsy Society is a non-profit, charitable organization, which provides education, advocacy, and support.