



**BC Epilepsy  
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.  
Inspiring courage.*

January 17, 2014

## **Run for the BC Epilepsy Society**

### **VANCOUVER MARATHON RUN4HOPE**

Does your new year's resolution include exercise? If so you can help fulfill that resolution and help support the BC Epilepsy Society by participating in the Vancouver Marathon Run4Hope program.

Run4Hope helps raise funds for various non-profit organizations as part of the Vancouver Marathon. This year the BC Epilepsy Society has been selected as one of the partnering charities.

The event has runs of various lengths that help to accommodate people with different skill levels. These include a full marathon (42.2 km), a half marathon (21.1 km), an 8 km run, and a 1 km run for kids. This event happens on Sunday, May 4th in Vancouver.

When you register for the Vancouver Marathon you can add a charity component to your participation by collecting pledges for our Society. We can also help you by providing fund raising tools and support.

Please consider collecting donations to help us deliver the outstanding programs, services, and resources that serve the more than 40,000 British Columbians living with epilepsy.

For more information please contact Shawn Laari at 604-875-6704 Ext. 12 or at [laari@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:laari@bcepilepsy.com)

## **In the News**

### **KEEPING YOU INFORMED**

#### **Newspaper Articles Show the Impacts of Service Dogs on People with Epilepsy**

Two recent newspaper stories have profiled two people in BC with epilepsy who have

service dogs. These dogs were trained to activate an alert system and bark for help if a person has a seizure. Both of these dogs were obtained from and trained by the [Lions Foundation of Canada Seizure Response Dog Guide](#) program. Go to the [NEWS section](#) of our website to read these articles, as well as to learn more about the Lions Foundation seizure dog program.

### **People with Multiple Sclerosis More Likely to Have Epilepsy**

A new study has shown that people with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) are more likely to have epilepsy. This data was based on the rate of hospital admissions in England. The researchers found that hospital admissions for epilepsy in people with MS were significantly higher than the general population. The researchers concluded that MS and epilepsy occur together more commonly than by chance. One possible reason for this is that a brain lesion caused by MS could cause epilepsy. [Click here](#) for a summary of this study.

### **New Program to Study Contraceptive/Birth Control Methods for Women with Epilepsy**

Some seizure medications may interfere with some contraceptive/birth control methods and therefore make them ineffective or less effective. To address this researchers at the Harvard Medical School and Columbia University Medical School have launched a program called the [Epilepsy Birth Control Registry \(EBCR\)](#). This is a research project and educational website. This project aims to understand the safety and effectiveness of various forms of birth control for women with epilepsy. Visit the EBCR website to participate in a research survey and read about the pros and cons of various contraceptive methods for women with epilepsy.

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## **Employment Support Services for People with Disabilities**

### **WORKING TOGETHER: THE NEIL SQUIRE SOCIETY**

The [Neil Squire Society](#) is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps people with disabilities train for and find jobs.

Their [Working Together program](#) is a new initiative that provides wage subsidies and workplace assistance.

This program will help find and connect you to employers and then provide financial assistance to help cover your salary.

This program is free and serves people with all types of disabilities, including epilepsy, learning difficulties, and mental illness.

You can enroll if you:

- Are unemployed or working under 20 hours per week
- Are legally entitled to work in Canada
- Are not currently receiving EI and have not collected EI within the last three years
- Are ready to find a job!

While working with you and the employers, the Neil Squire Society will:

- Subsidize wages for a minimum of six months
- Provide the necessary worksite accommodations
- Complete necessary paperwork
- Provide ongoing support for the duration of the contract

This program is offered throughout BC. For more information please contact the Neil Squire Society at 604-473-9363, [info@neilsquire.ca](mailto:info@neilsquire.ca) or go to their website at [www.neilsquire.ca](http://www.neilsquire.ca)

For information about epilepsy and employment you can read our information sheets, [Accommodating Epilepsy in the Workplace](#) and [Employment and Disclosure](#).

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### **BC Epilepsy Society**

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