



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.*

April 22, 2015

Scholarships for People with Epilepsy

2015 APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE

The BC Epilepsy Society offers post-secondary scholarships for people with epilepsy who currently attend or plan to attend a post-secondary institution or employment training program. Four scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded in 2015.

The scholarships are awarded on the basis of educational commitment, volunteer work, and other achievements or interests. The grants can be applied to tuition, books, and/or related educational expenses.

Individuals who are BC residents, ages 16 and older, who are Canadian citizens or who have landed immigrant status, under a physicians' care for epilepsy, and have a current BC Epilepsy Society membership are eligible.

[Click here](#) to download the 2015 scholarship application form. The deadline to submit an application is June 12th, 2015. The winners will be announced on July 3rd, 2015.

For more information about the scholarships please contact our office at 604-875-6704 or at info@bcepilepsy.com

BC Epilepsy Society Updates

WHAT'S NEW

Meet Our New Executive Director

The BC Epilepsy Society is pleased to welcome Lori Eisenhour as our new Executive Director. Lori is a seasoned, value-based leader with a unique background of medical, non-profit, and operational expertise spanning public and private healthcare organizations. She also has the experience of being a parent of a child with severe epilepsy. You can contact Lori at 604-875-6704 or at lori@bcepilepsy.com

Walk for Epilepsy

It's that time of the year again – it's time for Cindy's Walk! This Walk is an annual fundraiser for the BC Epilepsy Society. It will be held on Sunday, June 28th. This year it will be held on the West Vancouver Seawall and start at John Lawson Park. It's a great opportunity to support epilepsy services as well as check out the amazing ocean and mountain views. Stay tuned for more details!

Cannabinoids Presentation Now Online

On March 26th the BC Epilepsy Society hosted a lecture about cannabidiol (CBD) and its relationship to epilepsy. To accommodate those who were not able to come, we have posted the presentation slides on our website. [Click here](#) to view this and presentation slides from other lectures that we have hosted.

Seizure Detecting Devices

Our latest blog post gives an overview of three electronic seizure detecting devices. These are marketed as being potentially useful in detecting movements that could resemble a tonic-clonic (grand mal) seizure. [Click here](#) to read about these.

In the News

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE

One Step Closer to Stopping SUDEP

A new discovery about the brain stem could help stop death from seizures. A recently published study has shown that SUDEP could result from a brain stem shutdown following a seizure. Although the idea is still preliminary, it's an important finding that could influence treatment options. [Click here](#) to read about these findings.

New School Advocacy Campaign for Kids with Special Needs

A campaign called "BC Parents of Special Needs Children – Action for Equitable Access to Education" has officially launched their website and advocacy campaign. This is a parent-led group that has been formed to draw attention to the difficulties that children with diverse learning needs face in school settings. They also are advocating for changes to solve these issues. Their [website](#) gives parents a chance to share their opinions, stories, and ideas.

New Recommendations About Valproate Use

The International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) and the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) has stated that when possible, use of valproate medicines (e.g. valproic acid, sodium valproate, divalproex sodium) should be avoided in women of childbearing potential. This decision has been made due to the risk of malformations and developmental problems in babies who are exposed to valproate in the womb. It is also stressed that women and girls taking valproate require regular follow-up for ongoing consideration of the most appropriate treatments. [Click here](#) to read a summary of their recommendations.

Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Referendum

Access to public transit is important for people with epilepsy and those who have mobility problems. In the Metro Vancouver (Lower Mainland) region, the public are being asked to vote in regards to whether there should be increased funding for transit services. The increased funding will include new bus and SkyTrain services, as well as a 30% increase in HandyDART services.

To be eligible to vote, you must be a Canadian citizen, registered to vote in BC, and living in Metro Vancouver. The vote is being conducted by mail. If you haven't received a voting package in the mail, you can you can ask for one to be mailed to you by calling 1-800-661-8683. [Click here](#) for more information about voting.

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