



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

*Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.*

July 16, 2015

Congratulations to our Scholarship Winners!

SUCCESSING WITH EPILEPSY

We are proud to announce that we have awarded four \$2500 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.

One of the recipients wrote in his application that he believes that having epilepsy has made him stronger and more focused both academically and athletically. This individual is very involved in sports, including hockey, lacrosse, and swimming. He also helped educate people about the experiences of being a teen with epilepsy by writing an article for an epilepsy newsletter.

Another successful applicant has a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition. She is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Experimental Medicine. She hopes to study the genetic basis of neurological conditions, including epilepsy. She stated that, "I hope that I can use this educational experience combined with my personal experience to help others understand this disorder."

A scholarship winner wrote about the difficulties that she had with math, and the academic challenges it had for her. She stated that her dad's motto helped her deal with this set-back. His motto is: "don't say you can't do it, or else you've already accepted defeat." She stated that in spite of having epilepsy, "I have grown to be strong, independent, and fearless."

We look forward to contributing to the success of more students each year. If you would like to help fund scholarships, please contact our Executive Director Lori Eisenhour at 604-875-6704 or at lori@bcepilepsy.com

Items of Interest

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Webinar About Epilepsy, Anxiety, and Mood Changes

Anxiety and mood changes, like depression, are commonly reported problems in people with epilepsy. To help people understand more about this topic, the Epilepsy Foundation has produced a webinar about it. This webinar discusses anxiety and mood disorders, their symptoms, and treatment options. [Click here](#) to view the recording.

Survey About Genetic Testing in Epilepsy

A proposed Canadian project called *Prevention of Ongoing Comorbidities through Early Intervention in Youth Living with Epilepsy* (POPEYE), is conducting a survey to collect preliminary data. This anonymous survey is about opinions related to genetic testing for neurodevelopmental disorders in children with epilepsy. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

A Connection Between Epilepsy and Shakespeare

Did you know...William Shakespeare frequently included characters with epilepsy and seizures in his stories. This included Macbeth. After Macbeth has a seizure at a dinner party, he reassures his guests by stating, "Do not muse at me, my most worthy friends, I have a strange infirmity, which is nothing to those that know me. Come, love and health to all." [Click here](#) to read more excerpts that depict epilepsy in the works of Shakespeare.

BC Epilepsy Society News

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE

Summer Fun for Kids with Epilepsy

The BC Epilepsy Society regularly receives free tickets to sports, arts, and community events from the charity called [Kids Up Front](#). This organization provides tickets for kids and their families who otherwise would not have these opportunities. The following organizations have hosted events that our members and their families have been able to enjoy free of charge: Vancouver Canucks, Vancouver Giants, Vancouver Whitecaps, BC Ballet, Vancouver Symphony, and the Vancouver Art Gallery. To get on the ticket notification list, please contact Marlyn Chow at info@bcepilepsy.com or 604-875-6704.

Information Sheet About Medical Identification and Safety Devices

We have updated our popular Information Sheet called *Medical Identification and Safety Devices for People with Epilepsy*. This document gives an overview of medical identification options, devices designed to protect people from injury during falls, and monitors that have been designed to potentially help recognize the signs of a

seizure. [Click here](#) to read this Information Sheet. [Click here](#) to view the entire collection of our Information Sheets.

Cindy's Walk Was a Success!

A big high five to all the walkers, donors, and volunteers who helped support Cindy's Walk. This Walk is an annual epilepsy awareness and fundraising event. On June 28th participants were treated to a 5 km stroll through the scenic West Vancouver Seawall, a gorgeous sunny day, live music, and the energy and spirit of the crowd. You can still make a donation to this event or pledge a walker. [Click here](#) to donate online. We look forward to seeing you next year!

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