



**BC Epilepsy
Society**

E-NEWSLETTER

Improving lives.
Inspiring courage.

March 18, 2015

Epilepsy Lecture Series & Annual General Meeting

EVENT DATE: MARCH 26TH

Recently many media stories about epilepsy have been focused on cannabidiol (CBD). CBD is a derivative of cannabis. It is suspected that it may possibly have a role in reducing or provoking seizures.

To keep you up-to-date on emerging findings, the BC Epilepsy Society is hosting a lecture about this topic called *Cannabinoids and Epilepsy: The Science Behind the Hype.*

This lecture will take place on Thursday, March 26th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre (the downtown campus), in room 1430 on 515 West Hastings Street in Vancouver, BC.

This lecture will include information about the clinical research into this substance, mechanisms of action, impacts on the brain, biochemical interactions, and safety issues.

This event is happening in conjunction with the BC Epilepsy Society Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will start at 6:30 pm prior to the lecture.

The meeting will address elections, auditor appointment, finances, and last year's AGM minutes.

The lecture is \$10 or free with a current BC Epilepsy Society membership. A membership can be purchased at the event for \$10.

Pre-registration is required. To register please contact us at 604-875-6704 or at info@bcepilepsy.com

Purple Day

A DAY FOR EPILEPSY AWARENESS

Purple Day is a day dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy. On March 26th people around the world are encouraged to wear purple and host events in support of epilepsy awareness.

The BC Epilepsy Society will be celebrating Purple Day with a variety of events. We will be having an open house at our office from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be snacks, crafts, games, and even purple cookies! [Click here](#) for our address and a map.

We will also be holding our [Annual General Meeting](#) and a [lecture about cannabidiol](#) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre (the downtown campus), in room 1430 on 515 West Hastings Street in Vancouver.

We have also arranged for Science World, Canada Place, BC Place, and Rogers Arena to be lit up in purple that night!

There are also events happening throughout the province. This includes a fundraising dinner in Chilliwack, an Open Mic in Summerland, and a purple wall painting event in Sparwood.

We are still looking for people to host wacky purple-inspired activities and creative awareness raising initiatives for our Most Outrageous Idea Purple Day contest. Great prizes will be available to participants who show off their best stuff. [Click here](#) for some ideas that you can do.

For more information about Purple Day activities and the contest, please contact Jas Lachar at 604-875-6704 or at services@bcepilepsy.com

In the News

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE

New Service Dog Guidelines in BC

BC has just adopted new guidelines for service dogs (this includes seizure awareness dogs). These new guidelines extend public access and tenancy rights for service dog owners, require a high training standard for certified dogs, and penalize trainers who falsely claim that they are certified. For more information about service dogs for people with epilepsy and a non-profit Canadian organization who provides them, read our Information Sheet titled [Seizure Response Dogs](#). You can also read a [press release](#) about these changes.

Do You Take Topiramate?

[BC Pharmacare](#) has switched to a different company that provides the generic form of Topiramate. It will have a different appearance and brand name. Abrupt changes between changing generic forms of medications have been shown to increase the risk of seizures for a limited amount of people with epilepsy. [Click here](#) to read information

about this from the Epilepsy Foundation. Speak to your pharmacist or neurologist if you have concerns.

Child Custody Payments for Parents with Disabilities

Single parents on disability assistance in BC will soon be able to keep child custody payments without it being deducted from their benefits. This is part of the changes that were announced in the 2015 BC budget. [Click here](#) for more information.

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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.