

Date: August 21st, 2009

Dear Friends:

As executive director of the Canadian Breast Cancer Network (CBCN), I am very pleased to welcome you to the large family of retailers and wholesalers working with the United Awareness Group to support the work of the Network. We are grateful to the United Awareness Group for providing funds from the sale of fountain of Hope water to CBCN and for helping to promote awareness to the Network across Canada.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Network exists to voice the views and opinions of breast cancer survivors and promote the improvement of services as a strong advocate for access to optimal care for breast cancer patients. We are the only national survivor-driven and survivor-focused organization in the breast cancer sector.

Since 1994, CBCN has worked on policy issues to improve access to services, conducted research, produced publications, advised sector policy makers and supported the development of over 225 provincial and community level networks of support for breast cancer survivors in Canada. CBCN provides programming in the areas of capacity building, networking, information sourcing, psychosocial research and education.

In the past year, the Canadian Breast Cancer Network:

- Launched an important survey of breast cancer survivors across Canada ***The Economic Impact of Breast Cancer and Labour Force Re-Entry*** as well as a general population survey to determine understanding of the issue. The 2009 survey results will be used to contribute to our knowledge of the current issues Canadian women are facing, and will help us provide both national and provincial/territorial guidance on issues related to labour force re-entry.
- Continued awareness activities for the ***Breast Cancer Wait Times in Canada 2008 Report Card*** on the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in Canada.
- **Strongly advocated for transparency, accountability and inclusion of breast cancer survivors** in decision-making in response to the Cameron Report in Newfoundland and a similar situation in Quebec of systemic failure in breast cancer testing procedures.
- Began implementation of ***Breast Cancer Survivor to Financial Survivor***, a new resource to help breast cancer survivors cope with diminishing financial resources at a time of critical illness.
- Asked questions and received responses from the five political parties during the recent 2008 **Federal election**. **Questions** were about breast cancer wait times; national standards for the diagnostic testing of breast cancer and funding for breast cancer networks in Canada
- Researched, wrote, and tested a new resource, **Bringing Sexy Back**, a workshop for young survivors with intimacy and sexuality issues after breast cancer treatment. The workshops will be delivered through our 225 partner member groups starting in fall of 2009.

Ongoing concerns include work on the issues affecting breast cancer survivors – the economic impact of having breast cancer; the impact on rural and northern women who lack access to diagnostic facilities; family and community issues; and continuation of our well-received and important work to advocate for improvement in wait times for diagnosis and treatment.

More than 22,000 women are newly diagnosed with breast cancer every year in Canada and have questions, need for support through their cancer journey, advice and information, as well as tools and strategies in undergoing treatment and living with breast cancer. An estimated 162,600 Canadian females (approximately 1 in every 100) have had a diagnosis of breast cancer at some time in the past 15 years.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Network works to advocate the best care, quick response times from our medical system, support networks and strategies for living with breast cancer. Your help matters. We hope we can count on your continued support for Canadian women to continue to count on us. For further information, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-685-8820, ext. 222, or at jmanthorne@cbcn.ca.

Sincerely,



Jackie Manthorne
Executive Director

Canadian Breast Cancer Network Charitable Organization No.889802971 RR 0001