

Dear Terry,

Thank you for inviting everyone to run  
beside you. This is our potential.

This is our marathon.

# TERRY FOX IMPACT REPORT

2023/2024

Dear Terry fox.

Thank you for raising money for cancer and fighting cancer. Thank you for showing courage and giving us hope for a cure. Thank you for running across Canada even though you hurt your leg.

From Sabaara



## TERRY'S STORY

Terry Fox did not think he was remarkable. Yes, he was unusually determined to achieve his goals, but his focus was local: family, school, sports, and friends. Terry's cancer diagnosis changed *everything*.

He was 18 when he found out he had osteogenic sarcoma (bone cancer) in his right leg, just above the knee. Three days later, his leg was amputated. He was profoundly moved by the other cancer patients he met, many of whom were even younger than he was. Terry was determined to stop the hurting.

He came to a simple conclusion: more money – a LOT more money – was needed for cancer research. He decided to raise that money by running across the country. He spent the next 18 months training and planning for his Marathon of Hope.

On April 12, 1980, in St. John's, Newfoundland, Terry dipped his artificial leg in the Atlantic Ocean and proceeded to run a marathon a day for the next 143 days. He made it more than halfway – 5,373 kilometres – when his cancer returned and he was forced to stop.

Terry died 10 months later, on June 28, 1981. But he achieved his audacious, almost unimaginable goal of raising \$1 from every Canadian. And he died knowing that the Terry Fox Run – and his dream of a world without cancer – would continue without him.

Dear Terry,  
 you are our hero,  
 you may not know... but  
 you are Canada's Hero!

## DEAR TERRY,

In 1980, when you ran your Marathon of Hope, we didn't have cell phones, email, and instant communications. When people wanted to connect, they did it the old-fashioned way: with letters and postcards. When cancer forced you to stop running, Canadians wrote to you with their support, gratitude, and love.

Canada Post delivered more than 65,000 cards and letters to your family's home in Port Coquitlam!

This year, we wanted to revisit those heartfelt letters. So we invited everyone to reach out to you – across the years – to share their stories.

Wow! We received *thousands* of letters from more than 30 countries.

People shared their treasured memories of seeing you run; of being inspired by your courage in the face of their own challenges; and of finding the strength to keep going, no matter what.

Thanks to your vision – and the support of our amazing donors – the very best cancer scientists in the country are working to find better ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer. And to give patients and families living with cancer the precious gift of time.

So we really want to say thank you! Your legacy continues to guide us and the work we do. It continues to inspire donors around the world. And it continues to move us closer to your dream of a world without cancer.

With our love and gratitude,

Everyone at the Terry Fox Foundation & Terry Fox Research Institute

## THANKS TO YOU, WE'RE DRAFTING THE ROADMAP TO CURE CANCER

For more than four decades, Terry Fox has inspired people like you from around the world to run and ride, pedal and paddle, wheel and walk, and to donate in Terry's name. Over the years, you've given more than \$900 million to bring hope and healing to generations of cancer patients.

The money you raise supports world-class cancer research through the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI). TFRI invests your donations in the very best scientists in laboratories, clinics, and hospitals around the country.

In this report, you'll read about some truly remarkable scientists and the transformative cancer research they're bringing to life right now thanks to your support! Here's a sneak peek at a few of their accomplishments this year:

- Sequenced the whole genome of more than 5,000 patients (as of May 2024). We're now one third of the way toward our goal of creating a standardized database of anonymized clinical and genomic data from 15,000 diverse Canadian cancer patients.
- Accelerated the pace of collaboration with the continued growth of the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network.
- Launched our ambitious Patient Working Group.
- Rekindled the Digital Health and Discovery Platform.
- Awarded \$43.9 M to 176 projects being conducted by 595 of Canada's very best cancer scientists.
- Achieved record-breaking milestones with 19 actively-funded Program Project Grants and 16 New Investigator Award projects, with \$15.5 million and \$1.5 million granted respectively this year.
- Supported 39 early-career researchers, fostering the next generation of leaders in cancer research.

We are profoundly grateful to everyone on this journey. To the kids and communities who host Terry Fox Run events, lemonade stands, BBQs, and fun fairs. To the volunteers and supporters who organize, participate, and donate. To the researchers, clinicians, and patient partners who are helping us to better understand, diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer.

Thanks to you, every day we take a step closer to a world without cancer.



**Dr. Jim Woodgett**  
 President and Scientific Director  
 Terry Fox Research Institute



**Michael Mazza, CFRE**  
 Executive Director  
 Terry Fox Foundation

# WHERE DO MY DONATIONS GO?

We get this question a lot. And we LOVE answering it because your gifts support the very best cancer researchers in this country through the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI).

TFRI invests your donations – along with the funding it receives from the Government of Canada and its other partners – in the very best researchers across Canada through its highly-competitive grants and awards programs.

No matter how you donate – whether you give monthly, sponsor a student in a Terry Fox School Run, participate in a community event, or include a legacy gift in your will – your gift supports ambitious, impactful research projects with the potential to save and improve the lives of cancer patients and their families.

The unique partnership between the Terry Fox Foundation and the Terry Fox Research Institute is one of the ways we're able to maximize the impact of your donations.

Thank you for my life!  
Two Terry Fox funded research projects turned into part of my cancer treatment.  
Terry, if you did not run, I would not be here today!

# THE TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## BRINGING WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH TO LIFE

### A year of growth and collaborations

Since its inception, the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI) has invested in world-class researchers and teams to accelerate discoveries and benefit cancer patients. Thanks to the generous support from donors to the Terry Fox Foundation and other partners, including the Government of Canada, TFRI has grown significantly, both in scale and potential for impact.

Much like Terry Fox united the country to raise funds and awareness for cancer research, TFRI's funding programs are designed to bring researchers together, to create partnerships that push the boundaries of cancer research, and ultimately, to improve the lives of patients.

While headquartered in Vancouver, TFRI now has staff in Toronto, London, Montreal, Moncton, and Halifax. We operate as an institute without walls, linking the capabilities of 132 leading cancer care and research institutes, hospitals, and universities to maximize our potential for impact.

With this growth, our mandate has expanded beyond our flagship basic science and translational research programs. We now lead two major projects with the potential to accelerate precision medicine and improve the lives of Canadians living with cancer: the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN) and the Digital Health and Discovery Platform (DHDP).

The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network unites the nation's top cancer research and treatment organizations working together with a single vision. We're proud that the Network now boasts 35 members and 78 partner institutions across all 10 provinces.

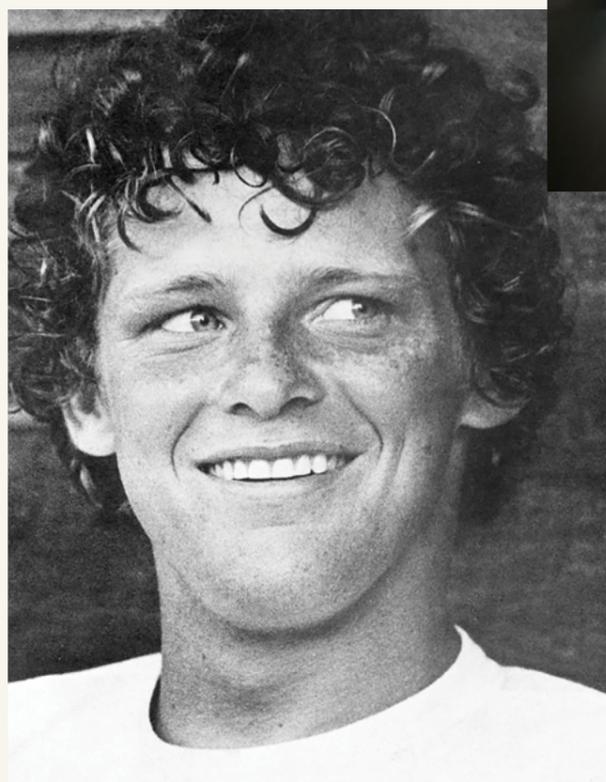
The Digital Health and Discovery Platform, which was re-ignited this year after an 18-month hiatus, is poised to leverage the incredible potential of big data and new technologies including artificial intelligence. This year, it expanded to include 52 members.

The next few pages highlight how *your support* has fuelled the growth of TFRI's research portfolio and our impact over the last year.

These stories offer a glimpse of how we are collectively advancing cancer research and care in Canada. And how your support is instrumental in moving us closer to Terry's dream of ending cancer through research.

#DearTerry

Every year I participate in the annual Terry Fox Run to remember you and to finish the run for you.



## INVESTMENT PER PROGRAM

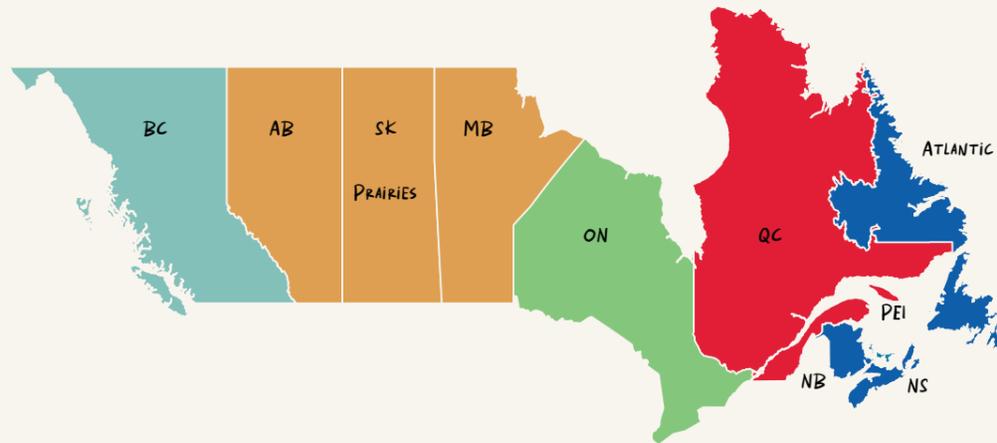
Program	Investment	Projects	Researchers	Research & Funding Partners
TFRI Research Grants Programs	\$19.1 M	49	272	66
Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network	\$24.6 M	127	375	100
Digital Health and Discovery Platform	\$200 K	0	0	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$43.9 M*</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>595**</b>	<b>175***</b>

\*This amount reflects our direct investment in research and does not include the costs of operating TFRI's programs and projects. TFRI's total expenses in the 2023-24 fiscal year were \$47,093,578.

\*\*A number of researchers work on several projects across program types. While these individuals are counted in more than one program type, the total number displayed at the bottom reflects the individual number of researchers we fund: 595.

\*\*\*Many of our research and partner institutions are part of more than one of our initiatives. While these partners may be counted in more than one program, the total number displayed reflects the individual number of partner institutions.

## COMBINED INVESTMENT PER REGION



**BC**  
**\$12.3 M** Invested  
 40 Projects  
 113 Researchers  
 19 Research & Funding Partners

**Prairies**  
**\$2.8 M** Invested  
 24 Projects  
 61 Researchers  
 25 Research & Funding Partners

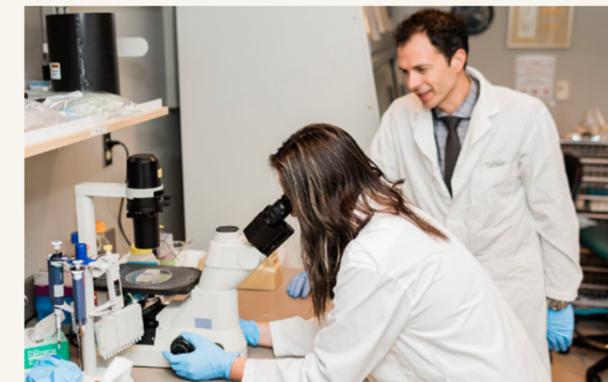
**ON**  
**\$14.5 M** Invested  
 77 Projects  
 235 Researchers  
 37 Research & Funding Partners

**QC**  
**\$10.3 M** Invested  
 61 Projects  
 138 Researchers  
 39 Research & Funding Partners

**Atlantic**  
**\$3.9 M** Invested  
 19 Projects  
 47 Researchers  
 26 Research & Funding Partners

## ALL PROGRAMS: YEAR-TO-YEAR GROWTH

Our total investment in cancer research:



Projects supported:

2022-2023 **97**

2023-2024 **176**

Researchers funded:

2022-2023 **352**

2023-2024 **595**



Research & Funding Partners:

**124** →  
 2022-2023

**175**  
 2023-2024



#DearTerry

You inspire me to run with my whole heart, to look within for courage to keep going when I feel weak. Your courage gives me strength.

## PATIENT INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

### HOW WE'RE EMBEDDING PATIENTS AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK

Ask any cancer researcher why they spend their lives tackling a problem as complex as cancer, and most will answer the same way: to make discoveries that improve the lives of cancer patients. And while patients have always been at the forefront of why we do what we do, they haven't always been a part of how we do it. Until now.

The Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network's Patient Working Group (PWG) is a collective of 30 cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers from across the country coming together to ensure everything the Network does respects – and reflects – the needs and values of the ultimate recipients of precision medicine: our patients.

Launched in May 2023, the PWG has spent the last year learning about the Network and the state of precision oncology in Canada by interacting with researchers and clinicians from across the country. They are now embedded in all Network activities, from leadership, to external communications, to policy creation, to project design and selection. As the group continues to grow and develop, it will become even more involved, ensuring patient voices play a role in shaping all Network activities.

## Patient Working Group

### 2023

- **May:** PWG officially kicks off with first all-members meeting.
- **November:** Members are invited to the Canadian Cancer Research Conference in Halifax. They meet in person for the first time at a learning exchange that includes researchers and clinicians.

### 2024

- **January:** Members begin to play a more active role by joining leadership meetings, co-chairing the Network's seminar series, and collaborating closely with other working groups.
- **March:** Work begins on the launch of the Patient Voices in Research Initiative, a first-of-its-kind funding opportunity for cancer researchers that seeks to answer pressing questions in precision medicine.

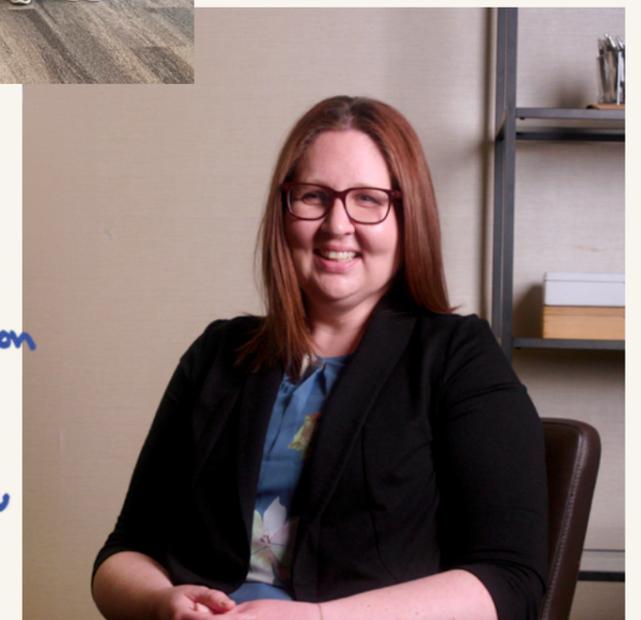
*"By bringing together cancer patients and survivors from across Canada to actively participate with scientists and clinicians, this group is formulating how precision oncology is being developed in Canada and using their experience to help shape what a patient's journey with precision medicine may look like. It is clear, from the work being done in the past year, that this highly competent group is already making huge strides towards achieving this goal."*

- Dr. Nicole Beauchemin and Dr. Nathalie Lamarche-Vane, Patient Working Group co-chairs



Dear Terry,

You are still such an inspiration today, not only for those with cancer but many battling for strength. You show many that you can dig deep for your will to keep going.



# FUTURE LEADERS IN CANCER RESEARCH

## HOW AND WHY WE'RE INCREASING OUR INVESTMENT IN EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

Supporting emerging talent in cancer research is, and has always been, a strategic priority for the Terry Fox Research Institute. That's why we provide programs focused on funding the best and brightest early career researchers in Canada. During this fiscal year we more than doubled our investment in this area, launching new programs and projects and expanding our talent bank so that top scientists funded by Terry Fox can help us reach our dream of a world without cancer.

Over the years, this investment has helped investigators establish their research labs and tackle challenging scientific questions. This has led to new breakthroughs and knowledge that have helped advance how we detect, diagnose and treat cancer. And that's not all! Thanks to our continued investment in this area, we have been able to see first-hand how these researchers have grown and evolved. In fact, many leaders of our current research programs were once supported by the TFRI when they were just starting out!

Expanding our investment in this area is important to cancer research and care in Canada and helps establish us as global and world-class leaders in this field now and into the future. And none of this growth would be possible without your support!

### Breaking down our investment in early-career researchers

Program	Fiscal Year 2022–2023		Fiscal Year 2023–2024	
	Investment	Projects	Investment	Projects
New Investigator Awards	\$1 M	14	\$1,529,196	16
Research Training Awards (co-funded with the Canadian Cancer Society)	\$0	0	\$167,383	7
<b>TFRI Total Investment Research Grants Programs</b>	<b>\$1 M</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$1,696,579</b>	<b>23</b>
Clinician-Scientist Awards	\$213,750	4	\$509,250	8
Health Informatics & Data Science Awards	\$0	0	\$240,000	8
<b>MOHCCN Total Investment</b>	<b>\$213,750</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$749,250</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,213,750</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$2,445,829</b>	<b>39</b>

### Terry Fox New Investigator Awards

The Terry Fox New Investigator (NI) Awards provide research operating grants to future leaders as they develop their independent careers in cancer research. Thanks to the generous support of donors, TFRI funded seven new, highly-talented early-career scientists in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. Each will receive up to \$450,000 over the next three years (a total of \$3.1 million in new funding) to support scientific advances in early detection, leukemia, osteosarcoma, lymphoma, and breast and prostate cancers.

In 2023, TFRI implemented policy changes to diversify the talent pool eligible for the NI Awards. This resulted in a record number of New Investigators receiving funding including institutions that had not previously received this award. This also led to the largest total amount awarded in a single NI competition.



**Terry Fox New Investigator Award recipients (L to R):** Dr. David Lim (Women's College Hospital), Dr. Sushant Kumar (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre), Dr. Laura Evgin (BC Cancer Research Institute), Dr. Joanna Przybyl (McGill University Health Centre), Dr. Sheela Abraham (Queen's University), Dr. Lucas Mendez (London Health Sciences Centre), Dr. Anastasia Tikhonova (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre).

### Research Training Awards

For the first time, TFRI co-funded the Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) inaugural Research Training Awards. Donors like you made it possible to support six master's and PhD students with up to \$30,000 for one to four years, to be matched by CCS (for a total investment of \$269,883 from TFRI). In addition, one postdoctoral fellow will receive \$214,000 over three years with equal contributions from TFRI and CCS.

Terry Fox-funded trainees are located in Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, and Alberta. They will focus on diverse cancer types, including B cell lymphoma, glioblastoma, osteosarcoma, and cervical, colorectal, pancreatic, and hereditary cancers.

*"We are proud to fund emerging talents to foster the next generation of promising cancer investigators. This investment in early research excellence is vital to shaping the future cancer research landscape. We hope we can accelerate the innovative research required to achieve Terry's dream of a world without cancer."*

- Jim Woodgett, President and Scientific Director, Terry Fox Research Institute



**Research Training Award recipients (L to R):** Laura Mah (University of Calgary), Wajih Jawhar (McGill University), Gillian Savage (BC Cancer Research Institute), Erica Mandato (McGill University), Alyssa Cristea (McGill University), Dr. Noor Shakfa (Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute). Not pictured: Erik Ensminger (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre).

## MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist Awards

In July 2023, four promising, early-career clinician-scientists were named recipients of the Clinician-Scientist Awards funded by the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN). Each will receive \$225,000 over three years to be matched by their host institutions for a total of \$450,000 to support groundbreaking research in precision oncology.

This new funding, a total of \$1.8 million, will support research for gynecologic, head and neck, blood, and breast cancers. Three of the projects are based in Quebec and one is in Ontario.

*"We are delighted to support these outstanding clinician-scientists and the important work they're doing in the clinic and the lab to accelerate precision medicine for cancer patients. Our goal as a Network is to position Canada as a world leader in precision oncology. With investments like this, we can also build our capacity at health and research centres across the country."*

- Dr. André Veillette, Executive Director, MOHCCN



**Clinician-Scientist Award recipients (L to R):**  
 Dr. Basile Tessier-Cloutier (Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre), Dr. Natasha Szuber (Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont), Dr. Houda Bahig (Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal), Dr. Long Viet Nguyen (University Health Network).

## MOHCCN Health Informatics and Data Science Awards

In August 2023, the Network announced the winners of the inaugural MOHCCN Health Informatics and Data Science Awards. These new awards support early-career researchers in health informatics and related fields to drive high-quality research in precision oncology. The Award's first recipients are eight promising, early-career data scientists in Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

Each will receive \$80,000 to fund groundbreaking research using new technologies to analyze data generated by MOHCCN-funded projects with the potential to improve cancer diagnostics and therapies.

*"Making precision medicine a reality for more cancer patients will require a multidisciplinary approach that includes professionals who can analyze large amounts of data. These awards support up-and-coming professionals in this field to ensure we nurture the best-and-brightest minds. And to ensure we position Canada as a world leader in precision medicine now and into the future."*

- Dr. André Veillette, Executive Director, Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network



**Health Informatics and Data Science Award recipients (L to R):**  
 Emmanuelle Rousselle (Jewish General Hospital), Peter Her (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre), Nikta Feizi (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre), Riley Arseneau (Dalhousie University); Caryn Geady (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre), Farnoosh Abbas Aghababazadeh (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre) Parsa Bagherzadeh (Jewish General Hospital), Michael Geuenich (University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre).

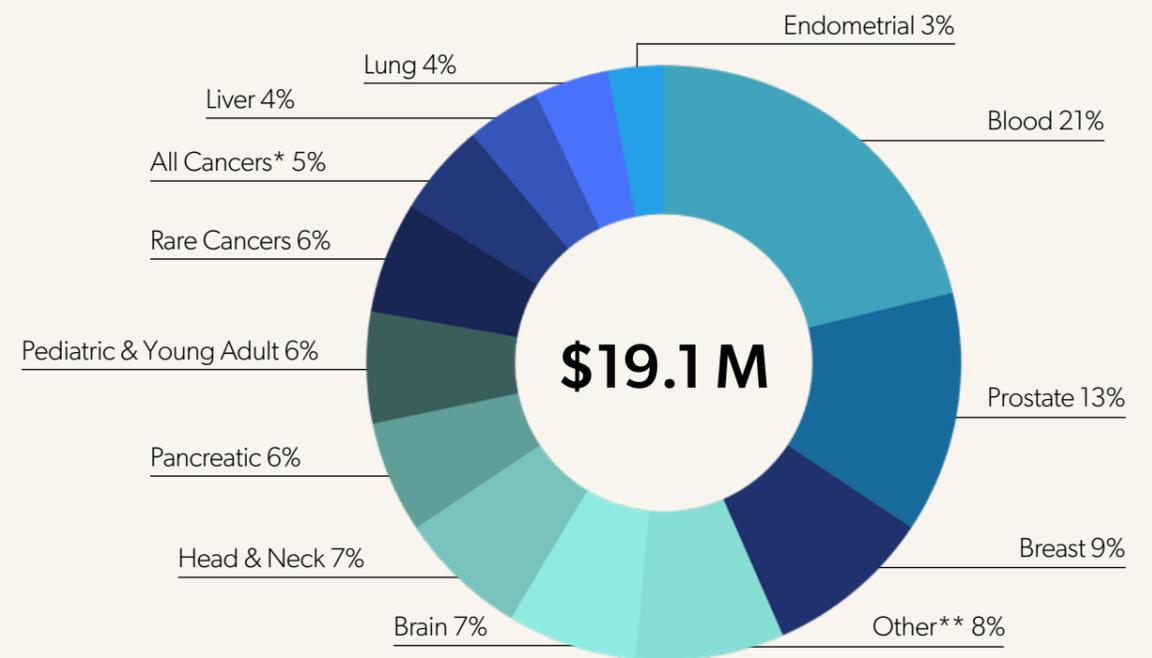
# RESEARCH MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU

When you fundraise or donate in Terry's name, you invest in the future of cancer research through the Terry Fox Research Institute (TFRI).

TFRI has created a dynamic, pan-Canadian research ecosystem to accelerate collaboration between researchers, clinician-scientists, and patient partners across the country.

Thanks to you, TFRI supports the best and brightest scientists – world-class teams of established pioneers and rising stars – working on the most innovative "outside the box" projects with the potential to save and improve lives.

## TFRI Research Grants Programs investment by cancer site



\* This category includes our investment in projects that have non-specific cancer types.

\*\* This category includes our investment in cancer types that received less than 3% of our annual funding, including colorectal cancers, gastrointestinal cancers, melanoma, ovarian cancers, cervical cancers, myeloma and sarcomas.

## Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network: Tracking our growth over time



Year	Investment	Projects	Researchers	Institutions
2023-2024	\$24.6 M	127	375	100
2022-2023	\$15.3 M	61	148	25
2021-2022	\$14.1 M	–	128	12



## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

### YOUR SUPPORT FUELS DISCOVERIES AND DRIVES PROGRESS TOWARD BETTER CANCER OUTCOMES!

Inspired by Terry Fox, TFRI invests in highly collaborative, world-class scientific teams working to save and improve lives through innovative research.

We are committed to the highest standards of research excellence. To ensure this, we engage Canadian and international scientific experts to evaluate the potential impact of all our research projects. In this way, you can be confident your investment supports the top Canadian researchers and their science.

This year, your support contributed to 176 research projects that contributed important advances (big and small) across multiple areas of cancer research.

Here's a quick look at a few of the exciting projects with the potential to improve how we detect, diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer.

### New therapy duo enhances cancer-killing viruses

**Program:** TFRI Research Grants Program – Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project Grants

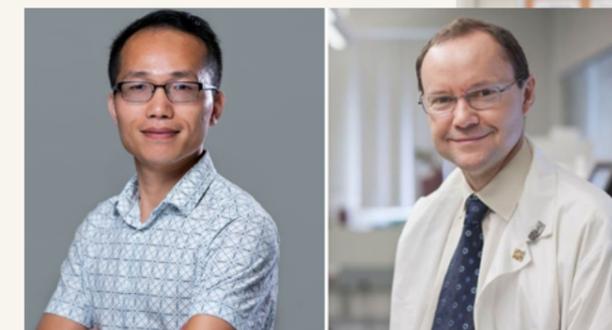
**Project:** Canadian Oncolytic Virus Consortium (COVCo)

At The Ottawa Hospital, scientists have unveiled an innovative therapy to target and kill cancers by combining special cancer-fighting viruses with a promising new drug called pevonedistat.

These cancer-fighting, or oncolytic, viruses target and destroy cancer cells. But sometimes, cancer cells put up a tough defence, making the viruses less effective. That's where pevonedistat comes in. It weakens the cancer cells' anti-virus defenses, allowing the viruses to sneak in and do their job better.

Led by Dr. Jean-Simon Diallo, and published in the journal *Molecular Therapy*, Dr. Diallo and his team hope these findings will not only add another tool to the oncologist's toolbox, but also accelerate the advancement of these combination therapies in clinical trials so patients can reap the benefits.

**YOUR DONATIONS ENABLE TFRI TO SUPPORT INNOVATIVE RESEARCHERS LIKE DR. DIALLO, AND BRING NEW HOPE TO PATIENTS FACING RESISTANT CANCERS.**



### Developing a model to explore treatments for rare, aggressive childhood cancers

**Program:** TFRI Research Grants Program – Terry Fox New Frontiers Program Project Grants

**Project:** New vistas on cancer biology and treatment: conceptual advancements from the forme fruste project

One of our BC-funded teams has made significant strides in understanding and potentially treating cancers associated with DICER1 syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that mostly affects children. These cancers are caused by mutations in the DICER1 gene and pose a serious threat due to their aggressive nature and a lack of effective treatments. However, the team has successfully verified key drivers of these tumours.

Led by Dr. David Huntsman and Dr. Yemin Wang, the researchers have also created the first-ever mouse model that accurately mimics the gynecologic tumour development seen in DICER1 syndrome patients.

This breakthrough not only sheds light on the biology of cancer development but also opens doors for testing novel therapies.

With this advancement, the team is now able to explore potential clinical trials for treatments with the hope of improving outcomes for patients with DICER1-associated cancers.

"Funding from Terry Fox is absolutely essential for us. These funds support students, technicians, and research expenses to develop and characterize this novel animal model," says Dr. Wang.

## Collecting the data needed to move precision medicine forward

**Program:** Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network – Special Initiatives

**Project:** Patient-Derived and Health System Benefits of Precision Medicine Project (HESPE)

Precision oncology uses a patient’s unique genomic and clinical characteristics to personalize their cancer treatments. While it has helped improve outcomes for some cancer patients, it’s still in its early days and is not yet available to all Canadians. This is partly due to the high-costs and partly to the marginal real-world evidence of its success. To broaden access, decision-makers need access to data that can help determine when precision medicine is most effective and when it should be paid for by health-care systems with scarce resources.

What does this dataset look like? Health economists Dr. Samantha Pollard (Fraser Health Authority and Simon Fraser University) and Dr. Dean Regier (BC Cancer and University of British Columbia) and their team of multidisciplinary researchers answered that question in a study published in the journal *Value in Health*.

They identified 68 core data elements crucial for evaluating precision oncology. These include demographic details (age, sex, location), clinical data (diagnosis, treatment response), genomic information (sequencing findings), and resource utilization (costs of hospitalizations, lab tests, treatments). This data can allow decision-makers to determine with more confidence when precision medicine is most likely to be beneficial.



**"COMBINED WITH REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE GENERATION, THIS WILL REDUCE UNCERTAINTY RELATED TO PRECISION ONCOLOGY OUTCOMES TO HELP ENSURE THAT PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST AVAILABLE TREATMENTS."**

Dr. Samantha Pollard, Research and Implementation Scientist for Fraser Health and lead author.

## Identifying immune patterns to personalize ovarian cancer therapy

**Program:** TFR1 Research Grants Program – Terry Fox New Investigator Awards

**Project:** Mobilizing natural killer cells to improve immunotherapy for patients with ovarian cancer

Patients with high grade serous carcinoma (HGSC), a type of ovarian cancer, have limited treatment options. Chemotherapy and PARP inhibitors are unable to completely control the disease, which often metastasizes and recurs.

Immunotherapy – harnessing the body’s natural defense against cancer – has shown success in other cancers but, so far, not for patients with HGSC.

To overcome this, a team from Halifax led by Dr. Jeanette Boudreau, a Terry Fox New Investigator, is looking at how different immune cells (particularly those expressing a tool called CD16a) interact with each other to affect outcomes in HGSC.



Because of your support, the Boudreau laboratory was able to analyze tumour samples from almost 1,000 patients using advanced digital pathology and computational biology techniques. They identified six distinct patterns of immune cell arrangements called “cellular neighbourhoods.”

The team found that almost all patients had a mix of these neighbourhoods, but there were variations in the proportion of natural killer (NK) cells, T cells, macrophages, and tumour cells. The study also revealed that patients with more CD16a positive immune cells had better survival outcomes. Those whose tumours were filled with neighbourhoods containing macrophages, T cells, and NK cells with CD16a had better overall and progression-free survival.



**"THESE PATTERNS OF IMMUNE NEIGHBOURHOODS COULD BE THE KEY TO DEVELOPING MORE EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS IN THE FUTURE."**

Sarah Nersesian, PhD candidate at Dalhousie University and the study’s first author.

## Altering the gut microbiome to improve response to immunotherapy

**Program:** Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network – Clinician-Scientist Awards

**Project:** How microbiomes influence intratumour immune contexture and response to immune-checkpoint inhibitors in patients with non-small cell lung cancer

The gut microbiome is the collection of trillions of microbes that live in our digestive tracts. In recent years, researchers have found the composition of the gut microbiome (that is, the combination of bacterial species that live in our gut) plays an important role in many aspects of our health, including our response to certain cancer therapies.

In this context, altering the gut microbiome has emerged as a promising area of cancer research. That’s where Dr. Bertrand Routy and his team come in.

In a study published in *Nature*, Dr. Routy and his team found that fecal transplants – a process that transplants healthy bacteria from a donor to a patient – are a safe, effective way to alter the gut microbiome. Importantly, it shows promise in improving response to immunotherapy in patients with advanced melanoma.

In addition to fecal transplants, Dr. Routy is exploring ways to alter the gut and tumour microbiomes to improve response to immunotherapy as part of two programs: his MOHCCN Clinician-Scientist Award and his Terry Fox New Investigator Award.

**AS A TERRY FOX SUPPORTER, YOU HELP BRING THIS INNOVATIVE SCIENCE TO LIFE!**



### Discovering a novel biomarker to predict success of immunotherapy

**Program:** TFRI Research Grants Program – Terry Fox Translational Research Program

**Project:** Advanced Pancreatic Cancer Profiling for Individualized Care (EPPIC)

A key obstacle in cancer treatment is finding the most effective therapy for each patient while reducing harm to the rest of the body. Immunotherapies, which harness the immune system to fight cancer, have shown promise. But identifying which cancers will respond remains difficult. With funding from a Terry Fox Translational Research Program, a team from Montreal discovered a way to predict patient response to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs).

Led by Dr. George Zogopoulos, the team looked at what’s called a chemokine-score, or c-Score, and found that patients with tumours displaying a higher c-Score show increased signs of T cell inflammation and activation, necessary for ICI treatments to be effective.

Looking ahead, the team plans to utilize data from TFRI’s Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network to advance their research and bring their findings closer to benefitting patients.

*“As the accessibility to tumour profiling platforms expands through the pan-Canadian Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network initiatives, novel biomarkers such as the c-Score will be more readily incorporated into immunotherapy clinical trials. This will help further evaluate these novel biomarkers and accelerate their transition into routine clinical practice.”*

- Dr. Zogopoulos.



## THE DIGITAL HEALTH AND DISCOVERY PLATFORM:

### ACCELERATING PRECISION MEDICINE FOR CANADIANS THROUGH BIG DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Digital Health and Discovery Platform (DHDP) is an exciting, nationwide initiative to enhance health outcomes for Canadians by leveraging new technologies to advance precision medicine for those with cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

Led by the Terry Fox Research Institute, the DHDP brings together AI institutes, hospitals, researchers, and industry partners across Canada. The goal is to develop a privacy-first digital health data network that will enable members to share data, resources, technology, and knowledge.

We are thrilled to announce that in January 2024, the Terry Fox Research Institute and the Government of Canada signed an updated agreement to further the DHDP’s mission. TFRI has engaged new technical partners to help achieve the DHDP’s mission. With this additional expertise, we are building a national framework and platform to securely manage access to digital health data.

**“WITH MORE COMPLETE BIOMARKER TESTS TO IDENTIFY CANCER PATIENTS FOR IMMUNOTHERAPY, WE WILL BE ABLE TO IMPROVE EVEN MORE LIVES USING ICIS TO TREAT THEIR CANCERS.”**

Joan Miguel Romero, an MD-PhD candidate at McGill University and the study’s first author.



#Dear Terry,  
43 years of amazing cancer research all thanks to your strength and vision  
♥



# REFLECTING ON THE MOHCCN'S YEAR OF DATA ACCELERATION

In March 2023, we launched the *Year of Data Acceleration* for the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network: a blueprint to exponentially increase the speed at which we were growing our Network and accruing cases to the Network's Gold Cohort.

## Mission accomplished! A year later, the strategy was a resounding success!

- Full genomic profiles in the MOHCCN Gold Cohort went from 888 in January 2023 to 4,287 by the end of the fiscal year.
- Cases with full clinical data rose from 0 to 1,095.
- Institutional memberships increased from 24 to 34.
- Gold Cohort-contributing cohorts grew from 62 to 99.
- Research Project Grant Agreements jumped from 19 to 117.

Our incredible growth wouldn't be possible without the 600+ people who are now part of the Network. Today, we introduce the *Year of Capacity Building*. This reflects our strategy to expand the Network, enhance data ingestion, and include underserved communities. Inspired by Terry's legacy, we're paving the way for more Canadians to join our Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network.

## WHAT IS THE MOHCCN GOLD COHORT ANYWAY?

Every cancer patient is unique and so is their cancer. That's why a one-size-fits-all approach to cancer treatment does not work.

Precision oncology was born from this understanding. This promising framework for cancer care aims to tailor treatments to the unique characteristics of each patient and their cancer to improve outcomes and reduce side effects. However, to make it a reality for more Canadians, researchers and oncologists need a high-quality dataset that matches genomic data with treatment information with clinical outcomes. In this way, researchers can see how patients with specific characteristics respond to specific treatments. This will help determine the best treatments for each patient.

We are now creating this dataset. The MOHCCN Gold Cohort seeks to be Canada's most complete cancer case resource, made up of clinical and genomic data from 15,000 patients with different cancers from diverse ethnic backgrounds receiving treatment in centres across the country. This resource will allow researchers



to use new technologies, such as artificial intelligence, to determine why certain patients respond to certain treatments. Our hope is to eventually match every new cancer patient with the best treatment possible based on their personal genomic and clinical realities.

The success of this resource will depend on whether its data is truly representative of the Canadian population. To ensure this is the case, the MOHCCN is establishing key partnerships with institutions across the country, including those that serve rural and remote areas. These partnerships will allow us to reach populations that have historically been under-represented in cancer research initiatives. We envision a future in which everyone in Canada can benefit from precision medicine, regardless of where they live.

## Anonymous donor, incredible impact

Since 2018, a private foundation has been quietly and generously supporting Canada's top scientists and their "high risk, high reward" research projects through the Terry Fox New Frontiers Program.

These grants provide essential funding to top Canadian research teams exploring new frontiers in cancer research. Their work features transformative biomedical, clinical, and translational research with the potential to develop better ways to discover, diagnose, treat, and prevent cancer.

In 2023, this anonymous donor committed \$3.7 million to three of these innovative projects: **detecting lung cancer in non-smokers; identifying how cancers disable our immune system; and improving surgical care and outcomes for patients with oral cancers.**

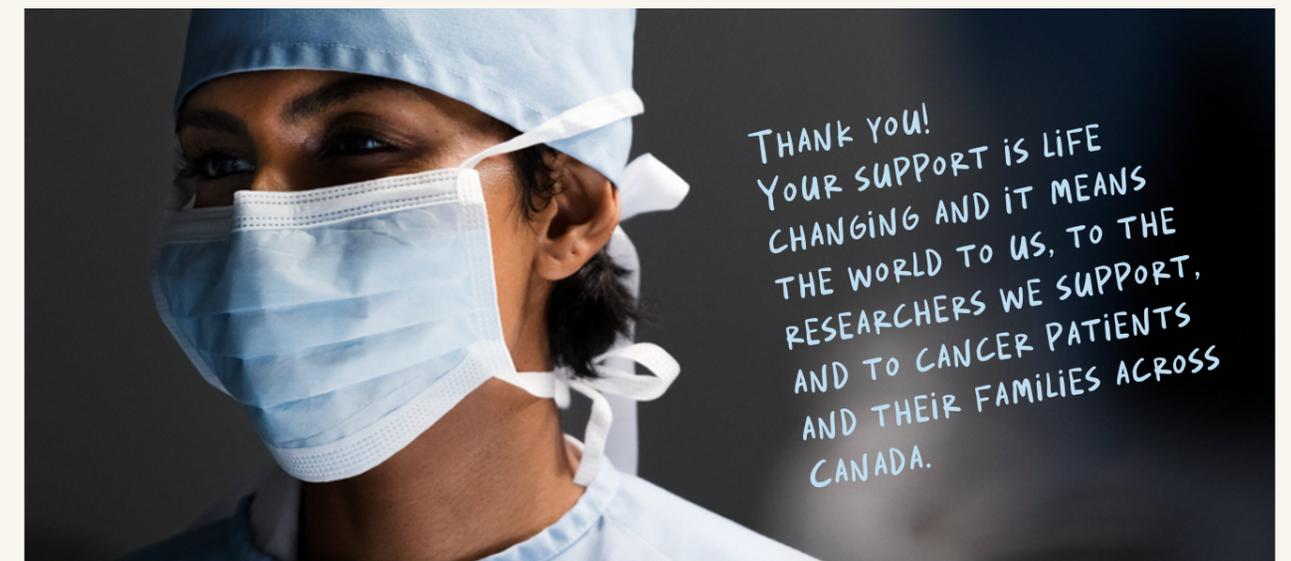
In the case of oral cancer, for example, 5,000 new cases are diagnosed in Canada each year. The treatment is complex and often requires aggressive jaw surgery and reconstruction with transplanted bone. Sadly, the surgery is still largely unsuccessful and many patients face lifelong challenges to speak, chew, and swallow.

But now, a team that includes surgeons, engineers, and radiologists is looking to optimize open-source virtual surgical planning (VSP) software. The hope is that it will help physicians pre-plan reconstructive surgery, identify the best source for the transplant (hip, leg, or shoulder), and create personalized, 3-D printed surgical templates before they get into the operating room.



**"WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM TFR1, WE WILL BE ABLE TO FURTHER OPTIMIZE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PATIENTS WITH ORAL CANCER AND ORAL DISEASES ACROSS CANADA."**

Dr. Eitan Prisman, clinical associate professor, University of British Columbia



**THANK YOU!  
YOUR SUPPORT IS LIFE  
CHANGING AND IT MEANS  
THE WORLD TO US, TO THE  
RESEARCHERS WE SUPPORT,  
AND TO CANCER PATIENTS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS  
CANADA.**



# YOUR HARD WORK IN 2023

**\$9,672,625**

Raised through the Terry Fox Run

**\$14,210,443**

Raised through the Terry Fox School Run

**578**

Communities

**3,980**

Teams

**9,233**

Schools

**\$1,057,349**

Raised through international Terry Fox Run events

**190**

Events

**33**

Countries

**\$5,829,407**

Raised through philanthropic gifts

DEAR TERRY,

MY DAUGHTER KELLY AND I MET YOU ON JULY 28, 1980. IT WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY, IT WAS RAINING, AND YOU WERE RUNNING ON THE HIGHWAY NORTH OF ORILLIA. I TOOK YOUR PIC AND RAN VERY BRIEFLY WITH YOU. I SPOKE. YOU GRUNTED. AND YOU'VE BEEN ONE OF MY LIFE'S HEROES EVER SINCE. YOU WERE TREMENDOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED FOR SUCH A YOUNG MAN AND YOU'VE LEFT AN AMAZING LEGACY.

Brad Paxton, Port Carling, Ontario



## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS



For the year ended March 31, 2024

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
<b>Revenue</b>		
Annual giving		
Canada	28,867,299	27,697,979
International	1,057,349	880,867
Bequests and memoriams	515,800	715,721
Government grants	111,969	88,855
Royalties	101,379	3,816
Sale of merchandise, net	1,291,870	616,272
<b>Total fundraising revenue</b>	<b>31,945,666</b>	<b>30,003,510</b>
Investment (loss)/ income, net	7,567,962	(257,080)
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>39,513,628</b>	<b>29,746,430</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Fundraising	5,174,499	4,283,425
Administration	4,304,545	3,973,233
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>9,479,044</b>	<b>8,256,658</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses before distribution of funds</b>	<b>30,034,585</b>	<b>21,489,772</b>
<b>Distribution of funds</b>		
The Terry Fox Research Institute	23,087,711	15,756,334
International cancer research organizations	1,948,611	976,423
Other contributions	60,000	240,000
	25,096,322	16,972,757
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses/ distributions</b>	<b>4,938,263</b>	<b>4,517,015</b>

## RESEARCH EXPENSES



For the year ended March 31, 2024

	2024 (\$)	2023 (\$)
<b>TFRI Programs</b>		
Translational cancer research programs	1,079,992	1,252,063
Cancer centres pilots	-	766,066
Discovery programs	17,020,350	10,544,381
Strategic & co-funded initiatives	714,258	-
Research other	275,000	250,000
Program operations	411,995	761,570
<b>Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network</b>		
Building the cohort	23,507,865	15,037,468
Network training	796,125	213,750
Patient and health benefits	315,827	50,000
Network operations	1,206,715	926,734
<b>Digital Health Discovery Platform</b>		
Platform development	200,000	247,315
Network operations	201,889	95,105
<b>Total Research Expenses</b>	<b>45,730,016</b>	<b>30,144,452</b>
Administrative Expenses	1,363,560	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>47,093,578</b>	

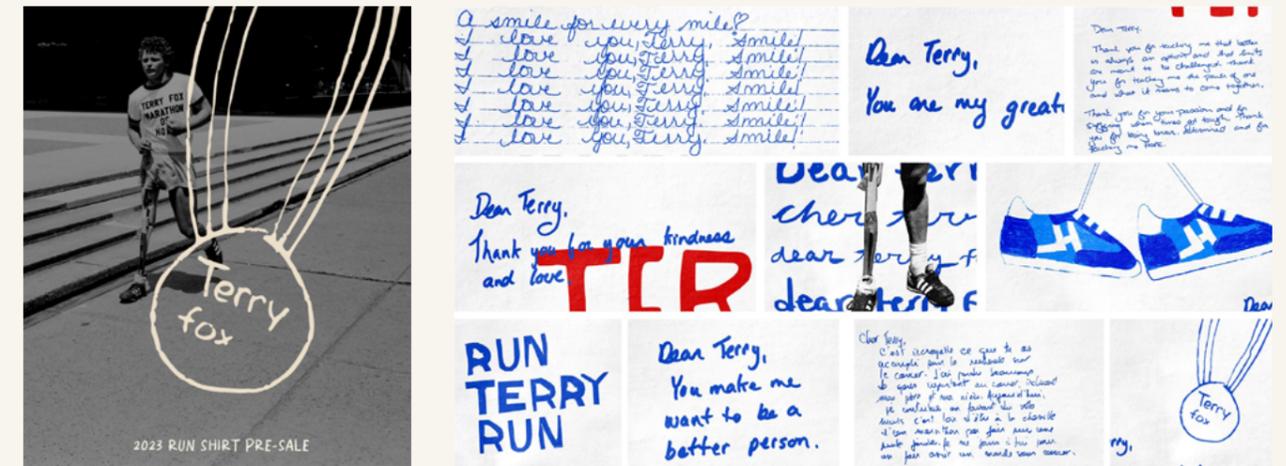
TFRI's annual financial statements can be found here: <https://www.tfri.ca/about/annual-financial-statements>

# THE SHIRT SEEN AROUND THE WORLD

## WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIEND, RYAN REYNOLDS



THE SHIRT FEATURED THE WORDS OF CANADIANS PAST AND PRESENT CELEBRATING HOW TERRY'S LEGACY CONTINUES TO INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, BACKGROUNDS, AND ABILITIES IN CANADA AND BEYOND.



We were thrilled to launch our #DearTerry campaign and limited-edition Terry Fox Run shirt in collaboration with beloved Canadian actor Ryan Reynolds, who shared a heartfelt message about his personal connection to Terry.

***"I've been taking part in the Terry Fox Run since second grade and can't think of a more enduring and lovely legacy for one person. Terry Fox inspired millions in life and death."***

- Ryan Reynolds

#DearTerry rekindled our memories of Terry's incredible courage. It reminded us of our connection to the Marathon of Hope and Terry's vision for a world without cancer. And it sparked a truly unprecedented outpouring of generosity, participation, and support.

In fact, thanks to overwhelming demand from fans and supporters, we had to launch our first-ever pre-sale. In the first week alone, Terry Foxers from all around the world ordered 23,240 shirts, crushing the previous year's record! It set off a domino effect that galvanized the country and inspired Canadians everywhere to rally behind their national hero in support of an incredibly meaningful cause.

**1.3 billion**

Impressions from media coverage and online engagement

**2X**

Increase in Run registrations

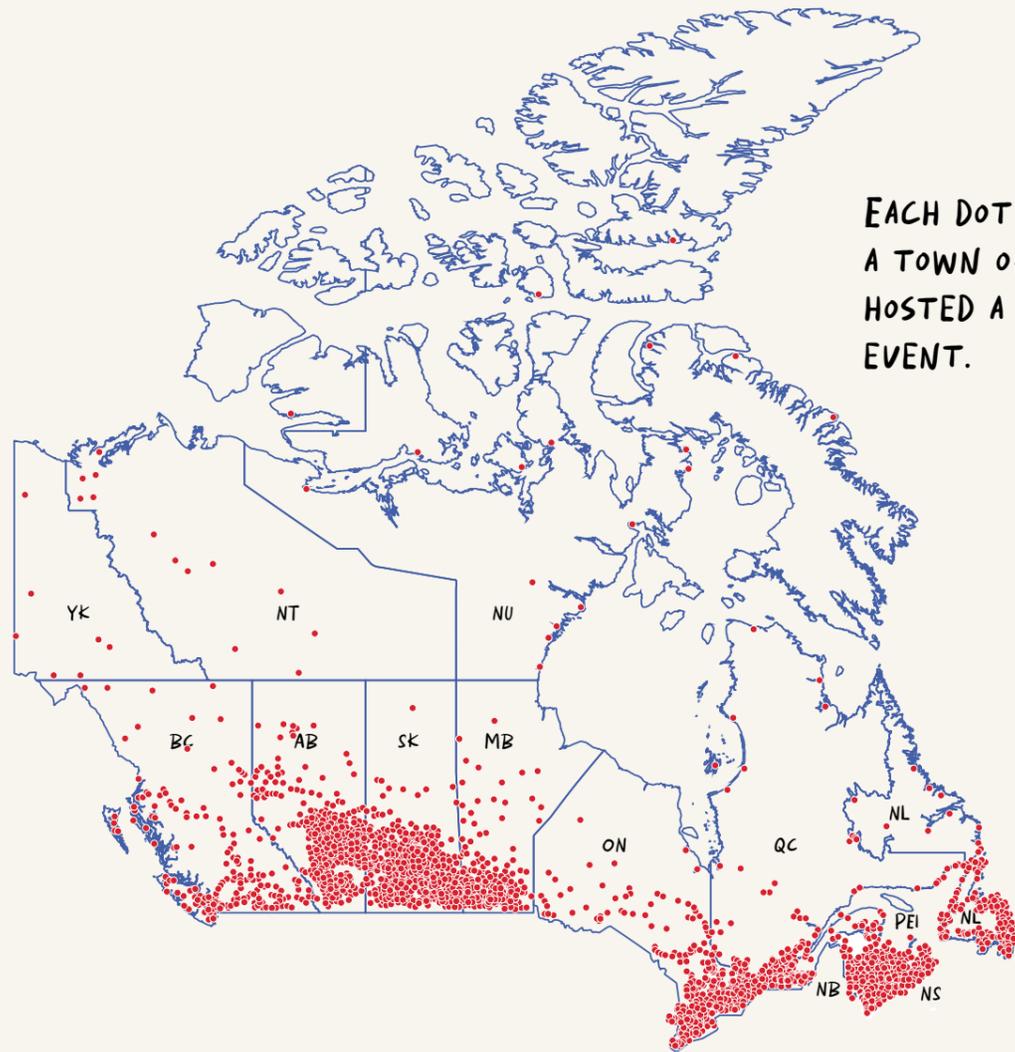
**\$1.5 million**

Raised from t-shirt sales

Special thanks to the dozens of icons and influencers across fashion, film, television, music, and sports who supported #DearTerry. Your love for Terry motivated and mobilized people across the globe to support cancer research.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SHARE THEIR OWN BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS AND SPECIAL #DEARTERRY MESSAGES. IT MADE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

# YOUR IMPACT ACROSS CANADA



EACH DOT REPRESENTS A TOWN OR CITY THAT HOSTED A TERRY FOX EVENT.

## BC/YK

94 Community Runs  
1461 School Runs  
\$3.07 Million raised

## MB

30 Community Runs  
487 School Runs  
\$745 Thousand raised

## NB /PEI

40 Community Runs  
233 School Runs  
\$373 Thousand raised

## AB/NT/NU

75 Community Runs  
1475 School Runs  
\$2.8 Million raised

## ON

190 Community Runs  
4354 School Runs  
\$13.8 Million raised

## NS

49 Community Runs  
303 School Runs  
\$622 Thousand raised

## SK

35 Community Runs  
468 School Runs  
\$879 Thousand raised

## QC

35 Community Runs  
269 School Runs  
\$1.3 Million raised

## NL

30 Community Runs  
182 School Runs  
\$227 Thousand raised



# COMMUNITY RUN EVENTS PUT THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

Last year, with funds from the Foundation and its other partners, TFRI invested more than \$28 million to fund 352 researchers investigating 97 different projects at 124 partner institutions across the country. This is only possible because generous donors like you give close to \$25 million each year to support innovative, high-impact cancer research.

We are fortunate to have generous legacy donors and to receive larger gifts from individuals and organizations who share Terry's dream of a world without cancer.

But, incredibly, much of the fundraising for the Foundation is still very much a grassroots movement. And many of the dollars raised for TFRI come from 575 Terry Fox Run events, 9,000+ school runs, rides, hikes, lemonade stands, dunk tanks, head shaves, and countless other creative fundraising initiatives.

## Your impact in action!

3,980 Corporate, Dedication, and Family Teams

6,250 Terry's Team members

9,233 Schools

190 International events

\$9,672,625 Terry Fox Run

\$14,210,443 Terry Fox School Runs

\$210,000 Ride of Hope

\$21,280 Mount Terry Fox Trek

## DEAR TERRY, YOUR SPIRIT LIVES ON FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST!

### The little town that could

Arborg, Manitoba, is a small town of 1,200 located about 90 minutes north of Winnipeg. Until recently, it was perhaps best known as home to the world's biggest curling rock. But going forward, it may be better known as the town with the biggest heart.

The community wasn't able to organize an official Run in 2023, but in true Terry Fox style, that didn't stop them from fundraising in other ways. They asked for donations, raffled prizes, sold t-shirts, and hosted barbeques. Students at Arborg Early Middle School got into the spirit when their principal said he'd shave his head if they raised \$7,000. They raised almost \$12,000! Obviously, they *really* wanted to see him get that haircut!

In all, the little town and its surrounding communities raised more than \$25,000. Way to go, Arborg!

**If you'd like to raise money for innovative cancer research, but you're not quite ready to organize a Terry Fox Run, follow Arborg's model! Learn more at [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org).**

### With a name like Naismith...

Bob Naismith was a life-long athlete, coach, sports fan, and Terry Fox fundraiser. He used to joke that, "With a name like Naismith, you kind of have to be!" (Canadian James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891.) Bob participated in every Terry Fox Run for 42 years – even getting new hips couldn't stop him!

When Bob passed in January 2023, his wife Joan and sons Andrew and David laced up their runners to honour Bob's memory and his longstanding dedication to Terry's mission. We were especially touched to read in Bob's obituary that, "one of his greatest accomplishments was his contributions to the Terry Fox Foundation."

Because of a family wedding on Run Day, the Naismiths held their Run that evening. With 34 people and 3 dogs in Saint John, New Brunswick (and one in Germany!), they walked, and talked, and remembered. "I'm sure Bob was smiling down and walking in heaven with us," Joan says.



"I'M SURE BOB WAS SMILING DOWN AND WALKING IN HEAVEN WITH US."



### The true north strong and free and generous

Terry's spirit is alive and well even in some of Canada's most remote communities. Case in point: Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

Inuvik, located inside the Arctic Circle, has held a Terry Fox Run every year since 1981 giving it the honour of being the northern-most community with the longest continuous Terry Fox Run. Not only are the town's 3,500 residents a hardy and committed bunch, they're also very generous. Over the years, they've raised more than \$130,000 for cancer research. *Nakurmiik!* Thank you!

### Melissa takes the cake! Literally!

Fundraising is a piece of cake for Melissa Willson, a new Run Organizer in Georgetown, Ontario. Melissa was keen to bring in as many new participants (and as much money) as possible. So she revamped the route, *heavily* promoted the Run on social media, and augmented the community's fundraising efforts by selling merchandise. It worked: under Melissa's leadership, Georgetown raised \$20,000 – up from \$9,000 the year before.

Here's where the cake comes in. Melissa's son Brock was turning seven. He wanted a Terry Fox cake and asked if he could meet Fred Fox. When Fred saw the amazing cake his mom had made and heard about Brock's wish, he surprised them with a phone call. They were both over the moon!

### Lemonade and treats for cancer research

Issac's Lemonade Stand has been a going concern in his Toronto neighbourhood since 2016. The idea started when Issac learned about Terry in daycare. He was only two but he knew he wanted to help and, with his secret weapon (his grandma's recipe!), the lemonade stand was born. Five years later, Issac brought his little brother Nyle into the business.

For eight years, the community has come out to support the young entrepreneurs who have raised \$11,607! Clearly, the boys have a lot of thirsty neighbours and Grandma's recipe is delicious.

Dear Terry,  
Thank you for your kindness and love.





**SO MANY TEAMS!  
SO MANY INSPIRING STORIES!  
SO MUCH MONEY RAISED!**

**3,980**  
Teams across Canada

**\$5.25 M**  
Raised for cancer research – our best year yet!

**Following in Terry’s footsteps**

As you can imagine, Terry’s story is especially meaningful to people facing the challenges of living with limb loss. So for the last eight years, Barber Prosthetics Clinic has entered a team in Vancouver’s Terry Fox Run. The inclusive nature of the Run and Terry’s “never give up” attitude inspire Barber’s staff and patients alike. Everyone comes away filled with hope and motivation and amazed by how much they can achieve.

**Fighting fires ... and cancer**

The grim reality of cancer hits especially close to home for firefighters. The World Health Organization classifies firefighting as a Group 1 carcinogen and 95% of on-duty deaths among Canadian firefighters are linked to cancer. We’re grateful to the Lloydminster Fire Fighters Association and their families for teaming up to participate in their community’s Terry Fox Run.

*“Cancer is the leading cause of death for firefighters in North America. When fires are burning, it creates a toxic soup of chemicals from plastics and synthetics. So we’re really proud to be able to participate and show our support for the Terry Fox Run.” - Brad Martin, President, Lloydminster Fire Fighters Association.*



**WE’RE GRATEFUL TO THE LLOYDMINSTER  
FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION AND THEIR  
FAMILIES FOR TEAMING UP TO PARTICIPATE  
IN THEIR COMMUNITY’S TERRY FOX RUN.**

**Équipe CN Team is all aboard for cancer fundraising**

The Terry Fox Run in Montreal’s Old Port began with an impressive horn blast from a shiny red CN locomotive. So, it was fitting that Équipe CN Team was there with its largest crew ever: 150 employees, retirees, and family members. The group had the additional distinction of raising the most money of any team in Montreal: \$58,996! Since 2019, CN has raised more than \$400,000. The company is so inspired by the innovative research funded in Terry’s name, they recently pledged to donate \$1 million over the next three years!

CN’s commitment to the Foundation is especially meaningful because of the deep connection between CN and the Fox family. Terry’s grandpa, uncle, and his father, Rolly, all worked for CN. And the roots of CN’s compassion go way back. When Terry lost his leg and needed a wheelchair to play basketball, Rolly’s work friends pitched in to buy it. Later, they took turns volunteering to cover Rolly’s shifts so he could stay by Terry’s side at the hospital.

*“Building safer and stronger communities is at the heart of how CN gives back. Our employees and pensioners are proud to join Community Runs across Canada and rally together to support Terry’s dream of a world without cancer.” - Olivier Chouc, Senior VP and Chief Learning Officer, CN*



**BUILDING SAFER AND  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
IS AT THE HEART OF HOW  
CN GIVES BACK**

*IT WAS ADMIRATION AND INSPIRATION AT FIRST  
SIGHT WHEN I SAW YOU RUNNING BACK IN 1980. I  
LATER UNDERSTOOD BETTER WHAT YOU CREATED AND  
WHAT IT MEANT TO SO MANY CANADIANS AND I’VE  
BEEN WITH YOU FROM THE ONSET. YOU’RE A NATIONAL  
HERO!*

*Dear Terry,*

*The pain is always there as you said,  
but I do not think of the pain!  
You as my Canadian Hero... you inspire and make  
me continue your phenomenal legacy!  
I run and walk for all who cannot*



## WHAT IS TERRY'S TEAM?

Terry Fox Run participants with a personal diagnosis of cancer are recognized with special red t-shirts emblazoned with *Terry's Team*.

Bringing cancer into the open has been one of Terry's most enduring achievements. Terry was one of the first to speak openly about his cancer; to unabashedly show his prosthetic leg; to let others know that they didn't have to couch their cancer diagnosis with euphemisms or secrecy. Terry made it okay to talk about cancer.

Today, almost every Terry Fox Run features participants proudly wearing their red shirts: each one a powerful symbol that cancer research works.

### The grandmother behind Team Nanny is the wheel deal!

Katherine Kilcullen likes to say she's been surgically modified for optimum performance. This double leg amputee participates in the Terry Fox Run using a skateboard powered by the running shoes that she wears on her hands!

After being diagnosed with a rare, aggressive cancer, Katherine was told she had months to live. That was 18 years ago. Today, Katherine is a grandmother to 12 and the inspiration behind Team Nanny, a fundraising juggernaut that's been a fixture at the Terry Fox Run in the Old Port of Montreal since Katherine's diagnosis.

*"Terry is my hero. If you could see the bottom of my board, you'd see Team Nanny's motto: Never live a life less than you are capable of! Terry showed us you can be unstoppable even when you have cancer. Terry's courage inspires me every day as I strive to do the impossible: to keep skating, walking, climbing, riding. This year, and every year, I'll be on my skateboard pushing hard to keep Terry's legacy alive, to fundraise, and to give back."* - Katherine Kilcullen

### Just live

Michelle Hughes was just 34 when she learned she had an extremely rare, incurable, stage four sarcoma. She devastated. "My son was three weeks old. My girls were two and five!"

After a negative experience with her first oncologist, Michelle's second specialist was more hopeful and had some simple words of advice: just live. So Michelle got busy living. She started running, beginning with the 2022 Terry Fox Run. She has since gone on to run a half marathon and is training for a triathlon – which includes adult swimming lessons because Michelle didn't know how to swim!

Today, Michelle promotes her "Just Live" mantra as a speaker, a blogger, and an extremely motivated sarcoma fundraiser. Before the Terry Fox Run in Charlottetown, PEI, got underway, Michelle spoke to the participants to share her message of hope and resilience.

*"I love my life now. I LOVE it! It's funny to say that because on paper, I'm dying. But I've never lived so much of my life as I am right now!"* - Michelle Hughes

## PURPLE? YES, PURPLE!

IF YOU'RE AT A TERRY FOX RUN, YOU'RE LIKELY TO SEE PARTICIPANTS WEARING PURPLE T-SHIRTS. HERE'S WHY.

Purple shirts honour the cancer researchers, data scientists, biomedical engineers, oncologists, and medical practitioners who work with cancer patients.

Each year, Terry Fox-funded researchers participate in a mostly-friendly competition – called the Terry Fox Run Challenge – to see who can raise the most money to advance cancer research.

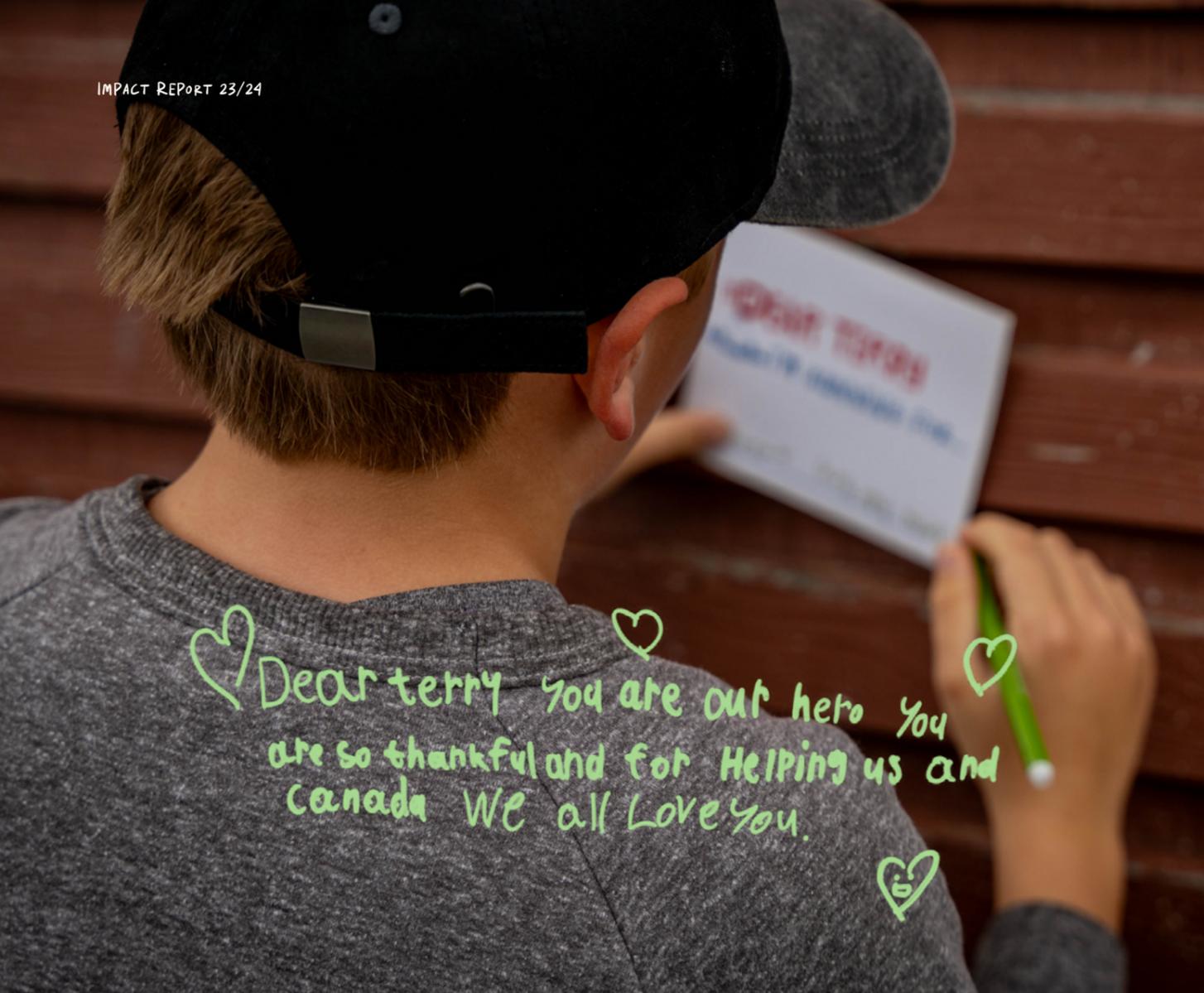
In 2023, researchers across Canada donned their purple shirts and raised more than \$156,000. It was the second-highest total in the Challenge's history! In all, 23 teams from TFRI and the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network (MOHCCN) participated. Congratulations to the Vancouver Prostate Centre team, led by Dr. Peter Black, for taking the top spot by raising \$65,204!

*"Year after year, we're in awe of the incredible support from cancer researchers. Seeing the countless purple shirts on Run Day reaffirms our commitment to Terry's vision of ending cancer through research. We're extremely grateful to our scientists, their families, and friends for their contributions,"* - Dr. Jim Woodgett, TFRI's President and Scientific Director.

# Dear Terry,

*I was inspired by your  
fun when I was a child  
but the impact on cancer  
research 43 years later is  
nothing short of astounding!*





## WHAT A YEAR!

Each year, the Terry Fox School Run gives 3.5 million students across Canada (and around the world) the opportunity to learn about Terry. They learn about his tenacity and courage. They learn about the Marathon of Hope and why cancer research was so important to Terry. And they learn to channel their own resourcefulness and determination as fundraisers, participants, and compassionate members of their communities.

It's the largest, most sustained grassroots fundraising movement in Canada. And it's the Terry Fox Foundation's single largest fundraising program.

**We are *beyond grateful* to the students, staff, and families whose amazing efforts raised \$14,200,000!**

**9,233** Schools

**3, 5 M** Student participants

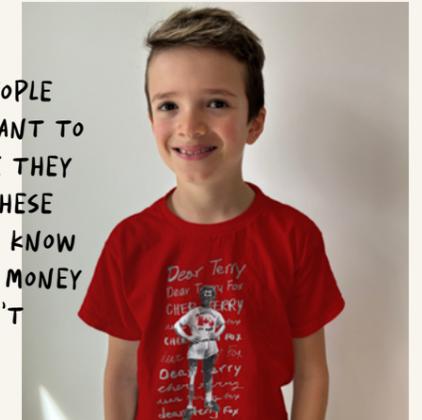
**\$14.2 M** Money raised

**130,000** Students reached via live and virtual meetups

### Meet Calvin, our 2023 Elementary School Run Ambassador

When he was five, Calvin was diagnosed with leukemia. For more than three years, he had chemotherapy every day. It was a long haul that left him feeling tired, nauseous, and headachy. Today, Calvin is 11. He enjoys baseball, basketball, hockey, cooking, and sewing. And he loves animals, especially his dog Darwin. When he grows up, he wants to be a doctor, scientist, cook, or policeman so he can help others. Asked what he would say to other kids facing cancer, Calvin replied, "I might give them a hug."

DEAR TERRY,  
YOU'RE MY HERO. WHEN I WAS SICK, LOTS OF PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO ME. IT'S IMPORTANT TO TALK TO KIDS GOING THROUGH TREATMENT LIKE THEY ARE ANY OTHER KID. LIKE YOU, I'D MAKE SURE THESE KIDS KNEW THEY HAD A FRIEND. I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I ADMIRE YOU FOR TRYING TO RAISE MONEY TO CURE CANCER ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU WEREN'T FEELING GOOD AND ON ONE LEG!



### Meet Mia, our 2023 High School Run Ambassador

Mia was two when she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a type of blood cancer. She spent a lot of time in the hospital receiving chemotherapy and steroid treatments. Today, she's 17. She loves dancing, swimming, and going to concerts and plays.

DEAR TERRY,  
YOUR DETERMINATION WAS POWERFUL BEYOND WORDS. YOU WERE SO PURE-HEARTED. I THINK THAT'S MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOU. YOU NEVER STOPPED FIGHTING. AND YOU CONTINUED DOING THE THINGS YOU LOVED MOST, LIKE SPORTS. THE MONEY YOU RAISED, AND THE MONEY THE FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO RAISE, IS THE REASON THAT SO MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING MYSELF, ARE STILL HERE! THANK YOU!



### When does \$9,957 = \$10,000?

The *Be Like Terry* student leaders at Allan A. Martin Senior Public School, in Mississauga, Ontario, set two goals last year: to boost school spirit and to raise an ambitious \$10,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Mission accomplished!

They invited the entire school community to write Dear Terry messages and to share stories of their loved ones' experiences as cancer survivors. The letters were read out on the announcements. They held community circles to teach students about Terry's courage and resilience. There were daily draws for gift cards and a series of fundraising challenges that were capped off with a celebratory BBQ.

When community supporters realized how close they were to their goal, they chipped in to push the school over the top!

### Kicking it old school

What if you want to engage your students and encourage them to get away from their screens and make more personal, face-to-face connections? If you're Sunshine Academy in Dollard-Des Ormeaux, Quebec, you get the kids to *kick it old school* by canvassing their neighbourhoods with clip boards and paper pledge sheets!

These enterprising students have been going door-to-door for more than *two decades*. The tradition fills the small, close-knit community with pride, enthusiasm, and the spirit of giving.

Despite their modest size, the Academy raised \$13,495.81 last year – a new record for the school that puts them over \$200,000 in all-time donations!



**THE ACADEMY RAISED \$13,495.81  
LAST YEAR - A NEW RECORD FOR  
THE SCHOOL**

### Little schoolhouse on the prairie

Terry's dream of raising a dollar from every Canadian lives on in Marengo, Saskatchewan where the community isn't just fulfilling Terry's dream, they're adjusting it for inflation!

The tiny village, 250 kms west of Saskatoon, only has about 70 residents. And the community's school, Westcliffe Composite, is a rural, K-12 school that serves 90 students from the surrounding area.

Cancer research is very important to the people of the community, so folks come from far and wide to support Westcliffe's annual Terry Fox Walk. Yes, walk! Students, staff, families, and people from the area gather together to walk around the village.

How much did this small-but-mighty collective raise? \$3,146.50! If you're doing the math, that's *significantly* more than \$1 per person. Walk organizer and school principal, Erin Pinceman, tells us that 2023 beat their previous totals, "by quite a lot!"



Dear Terry, thank you for all of your hard work. You are so brave. You are Canada's hero!  
By: Zahra 😊

### How to crush your goals...by a factor of TEN

Congratulations to Ross Road School, in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Ross Road won the 2023 Atlantic Terry Fox School Run Challenge Draw. Their prize was a visit from Fred Fox!

The challenge was to see how many laps around the school perimeter the students could complete within the allotted time.

In September, when the students first started running, they averaged 5-7 laps around the school in the allotted time. By the time Fred came to visit the following spring, they were running 10-12 laps in the same amount of time. WOW! Everyone was impressed, especially the PE teacher!

The students were just as impressive with their fundraising. Along with many other schools, they took advantage of a new fundraising tool included with their Run kits: a Terry Fox postcard with a QR code that takes donors directly to the school's fundraising page. Ross Road students and their supporters went "all in" with postcards.

**THE SMALL SCHOOL (JUST 353 STUDENTS FROM JK-9) RAISED \$3,234 TEN TIMES MORE MONEY THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR!**



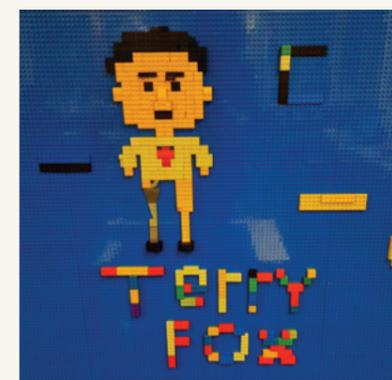
### Osoyoos Elementary

Students at Osoyoos Elementary turned out in force for their 2023 Terry Fox School Run. And after they finished the event, they gathered to cheer on classmate Zephyr Peltier.

Zephyr, an 11-year-old Grade 6 student, took on an extra fundraising challenge to run from Oliver to Osoyoos: the equivalent of a 21 km half marathon. Zephyr crossed the finish line in front of the school to the cheers of his classmates, teachers, and family members.

Zephyr was thrilled to complete his run in just over three hours: a full hour faster than when he did the same run in Grade 4!

Zephyr truly embodies Terry's athleticism and his message of hope. We're delighted he won the random draw for a Terry Fox Run shirt signed by Ryan Reynolds!



**AWWWW!**

Shout out to the Grade 4/5 students at Ranch Park Elementary, in Coquitlam who created this awesome Lego Terry! This just one example of the countless creative ways students across the country celebrate their connection to Terry, their school spirit, and their fundraising efforts!



## YOUR SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD!

**\$1,057,349**

From international Terry Fox Run events

**33**

Countries

**190**

Fundraising events

This is a 20% increase over the previous year and more than twice as much as two years ago! Heartfelt thanks to our international supporters!

Right now, funds raised at Terry Fox events around the world are supporting life-changing research projects in those countries. Here are just a few examples.

- **Mumbai:** A clinical trial at the TATA Memorial Centre is looking at the possibility of improving cancer outcomes for patients with liver cancer using inexpensive, easily-sourced drugs.
- **Singapore:** scientists at the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine are improving methods to quantify minimal residual disease in childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia.
- **New York City:** researchers at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center are investigating CAR T cell therapy as a promising way to use the patient's own immune cells to treat some types of blood cancers.
- **Ireland:** the Irish Cancer Society is funding Translational Research Fellowships to support early career scientists on their path to becoming future all-stars.

The money you raise at almost every Terry Fox international event stays in your country to support local cancer research. Thank you!

### Bora Bora, French Polynesia

Isadore Sharp and the Four Seasons hotel chain have been friends of Terry Fox from the very beginning. During Terry's Marathon of Hope, Mr. Sharp was responsible for getting the word out to corporate Canada and for assuring Terry that an annual community Run in his name would take place...no matter what!

So we were really touched that the Four Seasons Resort in Bora Bora included a Terry Fox fundraiser as part of their gala celebrating World Kindness Day.

Guests and locals alike enjoyed delicious canapes, music and entertainment, and a lively auction that included local art, black pearl jewellery, and stays at Four Seasons properties around the world. In all, the event raised more than US\$30,000!

**"IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL EVENING OF FUN AND PHILANTHROPY. AND WE'RE THRILLED THAT OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS CAME TOGETHER TO RAISE AWARENESS AND MONEY TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH."**

Romain Chanet, General Manager, Four Seasons Bora Bora



### Seoul International School, South Korea

"We are all Tigers" is the motto at Seoul International School. It's fitting because the staff and students were fierce in their Terry Fox fundraising efforts.

The school's Terry Fox Run happened to coincide with Korean Thanksgiving (a three-day festival called Chuseok). Run Day 2023 became one of the highlights of the school year. In addition to running, the students celebrated Terry with an entire day of outdoor activities, speakers, and events! They learned about Terry, about empathy and caring for others, and of course, about raising money for a great cause!

We salute the students and staff who ran a total of 3,182 laps (more than 1,400 kms!) and raised 9.2 million Korean won (more than CA\$9,000) for the Korean Association for Children with Leukemia and Cancer.

"We were honoured the Canadian Embassy in Korea supported our Run and even sent representatives to the school to talk to our students. We're already making plans to raise twice as much money next year!" - Dr. Jim Gerhard, Head of School, Seoul International School



**WE SALUTE THE STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO RAN A TOTAL OF 3,182 LAPS (MORE THAN 1,400 KMS) AND RAISED 9.2 MILLION KOREAN WON (MORE THAN CA \$9,000)!**

## CANCER HAS NO BORDERS. NEITHER DOES HOPE.

Terry's message of hope and his mission to raise money for life-changing cancer research echo around the world. Our thanks to the thousands of Terry Foxers around the world for your amazing support!



Some of the amazing volunteers who brought the Terry Fox Run to Auckland, New Zealand for the first time. L to R: Maaru, Renata, Nishant, Michelle, Melanie, Jesse.



Participants at the starting line in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Fred Fox with Bob Rae, Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, at New York City's Central Park Run.



## LIKE TERRY, YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE

Many of us are deeply committed to leaving a lasting legacy, something to represent the very best of who we are and how we want to be remembered. It's hard to imagine anything more enduring or impactful than Terry's own legacy and his vision for a world without cancer.

If you are considering a legacy of hope with a gift in your will to the Terry Fox Foundation, thank you!

To honour these extra-special gifts, we are proud to introduce the Terry Fox Legacy Circle.

The Terry Fox Legacy Circle recognizes and celebrates your intention to support innovative cancer research for future generations. In appreciation, we'll keep you up-to-date with the breakthroughs and impact that are only possible thanks to gifts like yours.

If you're planning to leave a legacy gift, please let us know! And if you'd like more information, we're here to help. Visit [terryfox.org/legacy](https://terryfox.org/legacy) to learn more.

LET TERRY'S LEGACY INSPIRE YOURS. LET YOUR LEGACY INSPIRE OTHERS!

*Thank you for changing the way we think about cancer. You will be remembered as a great Canadian! ❤️*



## HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Dear Terry,

You would be so proud to witness the many ways Canadians continue to honour your legacy including the Ride of Hope and the Mount Terry Fox Trek.

### Ride of Hope

The Ride of Hope was started in 2015 by Terry's younger brother, Darrell. This annual pedal-powered fundraiser embodies Terry's fierce determination and continues to welcome new Riders and new Rides every year.

This year, you were invited to create your own personalized Rides, called *Ride Your Way*. Families rode through their communities, friends went mountain biking, and riders on stationary bikes in spin classes brought energy, enthusiasm, and fundraising to their Rides!

Case in point, Dominique Gregoire, the Terry Fox Foundation's VP of Finance and HR. As you might expect, working at the Terry Fox Foundation is more than a job. Like Canadians across the country, we also embrace Terry's mission as participants and fundraisers.

Dominique, her husband Jim, and their daughter Claudia are enthusiastic cyclists and fundraisers. In just two years, they've raised more than \$50,000 through their personal Ride of Hope.

In 2022, they cycled from Vancouver to Calgary. It was a 10-day test of endurance that covered 1,100 kms and 11,000 metres of elevation! Last year, they opted for a shorter, but equally intense experience riding 240 kms from Lake Louise to Jasper in under 10 hours and crushing 2,400 metres of elevation. The ambitious family is already looking forward to next year: they'll cycle the length of Prince Edward Island on the Confederation Trail. While the hills are relatively gentle compared with their previous rides, it's two days and 330 kms over a dusty gravel trail. Stay tuned.

In all, *hundreds* of individuals participated in 13 official Rides from the trails of British Columbia to the shores of Nova Scotia. Thank you, Riders: you raised \$214,000 for innovative cancer research!

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU, DOMINIQUE. WE'RE SO PROUD OF YOU!**



### Euan's Big Ride just keeps getting BIGGER!

My name is Euan. I'm 10 and just like you, I love Terry Fox. In 2020, my family learned about the Terry Fox Ride of Hope. We love cycling and thought it would be a great family fun idea.

That year, the furthest I had ever ridden was 22 kms. But I decided to cycle 70 kms because I was seven years old. I rode the full distance and raised \$500 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The next year, when I was eight, I rode 80 kms and raised \$1,000! Each year, as I turn a year older, I go up by 10 kms.

When I was nine, I rode 90 kms and raised \$4,000. Last year, I rode 100 kms on my 10th birthday. And I raised \$20,000! I was even interviewed by a few reporters for the news!



**" I'M PROUD OF FINISHING MY LONG RIDE AND RAISING MONEY FOR THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION SO WE CAN FIND A CURE FOR CANCER. I'LL BE BACK IN 2024! CAN YOU GUESS HOW MANY KILOMETRES I'M AIMING FOR?"**

Euan, Cambridge, Ontario

## Mount Terry Fox Trek

Mount Terry Fox sits near the town of Valemount in the spectacular Canadian Rockies.

The Trek is a one-of-a-kind experience that brings together hikers from across Canada. Last year, participants came from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec! One of the things that makes it so unique and special is that every participant seems to bring a personal connection to Terry or to cancer. It's not a requirement, it's just something that seems to happen!

In 2023, for the 9th annual Trek, 60 keen hikers set off bright and early on a beautiful August morning.

In all, there were more than 30 summiteers – including Terry's older brother Fred – who toughed it out for 12 hours along an 18 km trail up (and back down!) 1,450 vertical metres! Sarah McIvor also made it to the top as a 20+ year survivor of the same osteosarcoma that Terry had. And she did it on a leg that's basically bionic: it's more metal than flesh. You inspire us, Sarah!

Together, the Trekkers raised \$21,280 for cancer research. Extra special thanks to the amazing people of Valemount who always go out of their way to ensure everyone has a safe, memorable weekend.

It's emotional. It's challenging. And it's incredibly rewarding with many participants forming lifelong friendships. If you're an experienced, confident hiker consider joining us next year. Visit [terryfox.org/trek](https://terryfox.org/trek) for more details.



Dear Uncle Terry,  
 I remember when I was about 5 years old wishing on a star that you could be alive again. I was too young to know that wasn't possible, but I did know how heartbroken my family still was 10 years after your passing. Little did I know your spirit would live on in the millions of your supporters every year, which makes our loss just a little bit easier. ♡

From Kish ♡

DEAR TERRY,

I'VE BEEN ON MOUNT TERRY FOX SEVEN TIMES. AND EACH TIME, THERE'S SOMETHING SO POWERFUL AND HUMBLING ABOUT MAKING THE TOUGH, EXHAUSTING CLIMB TO THE SUMMIT. STANDING AT THE TOP OF THE RUGGED, WIND-SWEPT PEAK AND SEEING THE PLAQUE WE DEDICATED IN 1981, JUST A FEW MONTHS AFTER YOU LEFT US, BRINGS A FLOOD OF EMOTION. AND I REMEMBER WHAT IT MUST HAVE TAKEN FOR YOU TO POUND OUT EVERY KILOMETER YOU RAN IN 1980, AND HOW THE SACRIFICE YOU MADE HAS SAVED SO MANY. BEING ABLE TO CLIMB YOUR MOUNTAIN WITH INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS AS PART OF THE TREK IS ONE OF THE MANY WAYS I'VE BEEN ABLE TO STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR LEGACY OF ENDING THE SUFFERING CAUSED BY CANCER. WE MISS YOU EVERY DAY!

LOVE FROM YOUR BROTHER, FRED

# EVERY GIFT BRINGS US CLOSER TO A WORLD WITHOUT CANCER

*Dear Terry,  
You make me want to be a better person.*

It is a profound honour to be trusted with your donations. From the contents of a child's piggy bank to very large donations: every gift matters. Every gift makes a difference.

**Thank you** to everyone who donates monthly, giving us the confidence to plan ahead.

**Thank you** to our legacy donors who have thoughtfully included us in their wills.

**Thank you** to our major donors and corporate partners who have the capacity to make significant contributions to our work.

## Born to run...and to give back

The first time John Stanton laced up his running shoes, it was supposed to be a short three-kilometre "fun" run with his sons. The overweight, two-pack-a-day smoker could barely finish. It was a very loud wake-up call. John began to run secretly in the pre-dawn hours.

That was more than four decades ago. Today, John has completed more than 60 marathons, countless road races, numerous triathlons, and Ironman championships. He also went on to launch the Running Room, a specialty store and community hub for runners and walkers with more than 100 locations across Canada and the US.

Giving back has always been important to John. And over the years, John and the Running Room have supported many good causes, including the Terry Fox Foundation.

In 2023, John made a very generous gift to advance precision oncology through the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network. And in keeping with his strong sense of community, he also stepped forward to become one of our matching donors. What does that mean? Thanks to John and several other wonderful philanthropists, every donation during our 2023 Holiday Campaign up to \$200,000 was matched to double the impact on cancer research.



**"TERRY FOX WAS A TREMENDOUS ATHLETE AND AN INCREDIBLE FUNDRAISER. WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION, THE MONEY GOES TO RESEARCH. THAT IS INSTRUMENTAL FOR ME."**

John Stanton

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE...EVERY MONTH

Beverly O'Connor loves looking back on her long teaching career in Vancouver. Her specialty was PE so it's no surprise she especially enjoyed the fun and excitement of the annual Terry Fox School Run.

"Terry has always been my hero. And honestly, the School events and the fundraising are some of the best memories of my 30-year teaching career," she says. "In the 15 years I was at my last school, we collected \$65,000!"

Although she's now retired, Beverly continues to support the Terry Fox Foundation as a monthly donor.



**"TERRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY HERO."**

## Why become a monthly donor?

- To fund bold, innovative cancer research throughout the year.
- To support Canada's very best cancer scientists.
- To prioritize your charitable giving. For many of us, it's easier and more convenient to give \$25 a month than to come up with an extra \$300 in December.
- To make a lasting difference. Remember, even modest monthly gifts add up over time.
- To feel connected to Terry's mission each and every month.

**If you are already a monthly donor, thank you! If you'd like to become a monthly donor, visit [terryfox.org/monthly](https://terryfox.org/monthly).**



*Dear Terry,  
Thank you for teaching me that better is always an option and that limits are meant to be challenged. Thank you for teaching me the power of one and what it means to come together.  
Thank you for your passion and for suffering when times got tough. Thank you for being brave, determined and for teaching me HOPE.  
Thank you for inviting everyone to run beside you. This is our potential.  
This is our marathon.*

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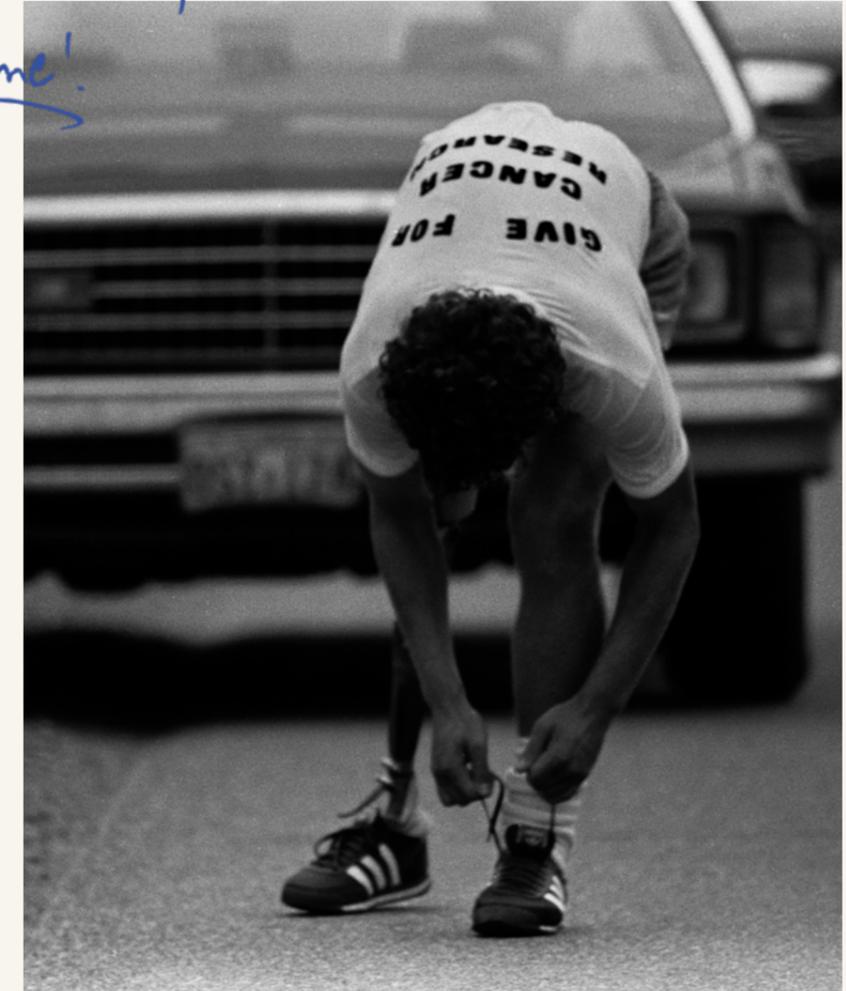


**Dr. Jim Woodgett**



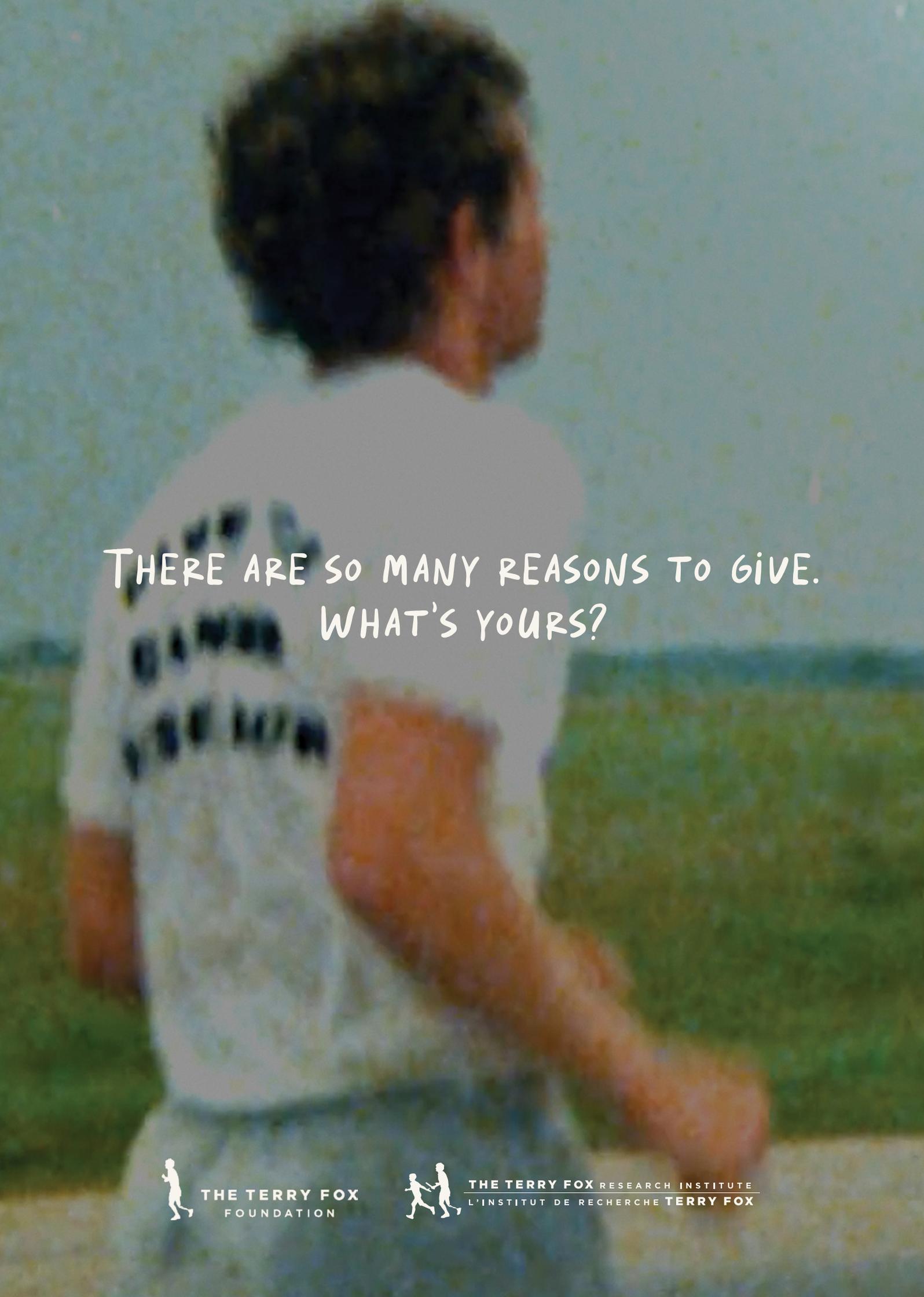
**Dr. Jim Woodgett**  
President & Scientific Director

Thank you for never giving up,  
and teaching me to do the  
same!



## THANK YOU

From everyone at the Terry Fox Foundation and the Terry Fox Research Institute...  
From the researchers, scientists, and physicians whose work you support...  
From the families caring for a loved one living with cancer...  
From the patients whose lives you're helping to transform and improve.  
**Thank you for your continued generosity!**



THERE ARE SO MANY REASONS TO GIVE.  
WHAT'S YOURS?



THE TERRY FOX  
FOUNDATION



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