



February 1, 2021

Hello Fellow Support Group Leaders,

In our August 2020 letter, we introduced the formation of our volunteer steering committee and our attempts to create a Canada-wide network of Prostate Cancer support group leaders. We now have some exciting news to share! We are pleased to announce that our group is now a National Council operating as part of Prostate Cancer Foundation BC (PCFBC). PCFBC has been aiding support groups in BC since 1997 and has recently expanded their mandate to provide support to all groups across Canada. They have a strong reputation and respected track record with assisting the support groups in their province.

From the outset of our initiative, PCFBC has been providing considerable administrative support to the steering committee, so becoming a National Council under their umbrella has been a natural evolution for our group.

What this means to support groups across Canada

The National Council is an advisory body composed of support group leader volunteers from across Canada. We will be providing input to PCFBC on what support groups need and see as a priority, will help with awareness initiatives, and communicate and share information with individual groups.

Our National Council and its Prostate Cancer Support Canada (PCSC) initiative is focused solely on support and awareness. We will not be involved in fundraising for national research, there are other organizations that will continue to fill that role. We are here to help, and we welcome your feedback and suggestions of additional support you would find helpful, both specific requests for your individual group, or suggestions that would benefit all groups.



Although the National Council is now operating within PCFBC, your individual support groups will still be independent entities, except for the BC support groups which have always been part of PCFBC and will remain so. Your individual groups will remain fully autonomous, and it is your choice whether you want to take advantage of the supports PCFBC is offering and network with other groups across the nation. It is our sincere hope that all groups in Canada will choose to be affiliated with our National Council, and that this collaboration will create a strong unified voice for all support group leaders.

What can we do for you and your group?

- We are expanding the website for our national initiative, Prostate Cancer Support Canada, at www.prostatecancersupport.ca. It will soon include a national calendar of events, and we are creating a forum where support group leaders will be able to post questions and share information. If you do not have your meeting information posted on our website but would like to have it added, please fill out this [form](#).
- We are currently holding monthly virtual national support group meetings with guest speakers. We also host a monthly group for individuals who support someone with prostate cancer called Partners in Prostate. If you want to receive email reminders for these meetings, please contact Richelle Green at richelle@prostecancerbc.ca.
- We have extensively revised and added new materials into our Reef Knot kits which contain information for men who have been newly diagnosed and includes a passport for that men can use to track their cancer journey. These can be mailed to anyone in the country.
- We can help your group get set up to hold virtual meetings if you are not already doing so, which includes using our Zoom account.
- We can create customized postcards/brochures that you can use to advertise your support group.
- In the future, we hope to coordinate national conferences for support group leaders, provide opportunities for coordinated fundraising events, host more national presentations and become a strong grassroots voice for men with prostate cancer and their loved ones.



Our goal is to have a support group leader representative from every province and territory on the Council. If you are interested in joining our council or would like more information, please contact us at info@prostatecancersupport.ca .

We are very enthusiastic about these new developments, and we hope your support group is too! We will keep you informed as we move forward and bring other supports on board.

Warm regards,

Sue Sohnle

Chair, National Support Group Council

Leah Lariviere

Executive Director, Prostate Cancer Foundation BC