

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada, a registered national charitable organization that was established in 1976 dedicated to supporting individuals and their families who suffer from dystonia, a neurological movement disorder that affects over 50,000 Canadians.

Our mission is to advance research for more treatments and ultimately a cure for dystonia; to promote awareness and education; and to support the needs and well-being of affected individuals and families.

As the only registered charity in Canada dedicated to serving the dystonia population, we recognize that our community is diverse and so are the needs and objectives of the people we serve. Ensuring that the voices of our community that reflect equity, diversity, and inclusion are not only heard but further amplified and propelled into demonstrable action is paramount to our work.

We strive to focus the lens of our mission to further drive meaningful action for the Canadian dystonia population resulting in thoughtful engagement and inclusion of individuals and a community who has been historically underrepresented.

I am reaching out to you today with an opportunity to demonstrate your support of the dystonia community ***Freedom to Move: Run, Walk, and Wheel for Dystonia*** and to engage with thousands of dystonia patients and their families at a fun hybrid event taking place from June 1 to June 30, 2023. You can support us by way of sponsorships, prizes, donations, or by registering a team! Corporate discounts are available if you register ten (10) or more people in your team. For more details, please contact us at [info@dystoniacanada.org](mailto:info@dystoniacanada.org).

This event was traditionally held in Toronto, Hamilton, and Sudbury engaging over 400 participants and their families, and since the pandemic was restructured into one virtual event open to all Canadians across the country. Over the last three years, this virtual only event has seen participation across 8 provinces and 45 cities and raised around \$70,000 each year. Building on this success, in June this year, the event will offer both in-person and virtual race options in a selection of "pilot" sites across the country and we will also be reviving our **Toronto in-person event at Downsview Park on June 11, 2023**.

Since its inception, this initiative has raised over one million dollars which is invested in building healthcare capacity, research, and support programs for people with dystonia.

We hope you will consider supporting this event and help further dystonia research and awareness. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of people affected by dystonia.

Sincerely,



Archana Castelino  
National Director  
DMRF Canada