Edmonton Dystonia Support Group

November 2026

Dear Friend,

As in past years, we are writing to thank you for your continued support of our annual fundraising for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) Canada. There are two reasons we continue this appeal: our personal connections to dystonia and the proof that fundraising directly impacts research towards a cure.

This year, DMRF Canada reached a milestone 50 years of working towards our commitment to a cure. We also said good-bye to Frances Belzberg who, along with her husband, Samuel had the vision and skill to found this organization.

Frances remained involved with DMRF Canada until this year when she passed away in July at the age of 99. Fran and Sam leave a legacy of hard work and hope in the dystonia community. These are carried on in the work we do.

The impact of DMRF Canada can be seen in both personal stories and advances in research. Accompanying this letter, you will find Soréyea's story which is a testament to the power of community and support.

Soréyea's story also speaks to the difference that knowledgeable care providers can make. Despite the fact that dystonia is the third most common movement disorder in Canada, many medical providers are still unfamiliar with how to diagnose and treat this disorder. We are pleased to announce that support from campaigns like ours helps advance important research initiatives aimed at addressing this problem.

Under the supervision of movement disorders specialist, Dr. Davide Martino at the University of Calgary, in collaboration with the Canadian Movement Disorder Society (CMDS), the **development of Canadian Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Dystonia** will create a roadmap for practitioners, policymakers, and people with dystonia so they can gain access to appropriate care. We are grateful for your generosity, which supports our broader mission, including advancing research in Alberta for the benefit of all Canadians.

Thank you for continuing to give generously.

Warm regards,

Connie Zalmanowitz
Director, DMRF Canada Board of Directors

Brenda Currey
President Edmonton Dystonia Support Group

P.S. If you'd like to support our research cause by donating to DMRF Canada online, please visit:
www.dystoniacanada.org/edmontonsupport