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PRESS RELEASE

Local charity's national partnerships benefit women with cancer in New Brunswick

MONCTON | NOVEMBER 19, 2014 – A bilingual volunteer organization in New Brunswick has joined forces with several national charities to provide individual support to women with cancer in the province.

The New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership (NBBWCP) has partnered with several well-known Canadian cancer charities to bring support straight into the homes of New Brunswick women diagnosed with breast, ovarian, cervical and uterine cancer. This weekend, representatives will be meeting in Moncton with volunteers from across the province to share knowledge and engage in training. Organizations sponsoring and attending the event include: Willow Breast and Hereditary Cancer Support; the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation; Ovarian Cancer Canada; and the Canadian Cancer Society.

Over the past 16 years, the volunteer-led New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership has provided cancer information kits and support free of charge to over 8000 women across New Brunswick. Once a woman is diagnosed, she receives a kit in either English or French from a professional in the province's health care system. She can also choose receive support through a network of volunteer 'Community Contacts' - trained peer navigators who provide one-on-one guidance to women in their communities and present public education sessions about breast and ovarian cancer. The NBBWCP reaches out to populations that are traditionally underserved (geographically, linguistically and culturally), and provides information and support in all corners of New Brunswick.

The New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership has the distinction of being the only bilingual breast and women's cancer partnership in Canada, and it has previously received funding and recognition from the Public Health Agency of Canada for its innovative work as a volunteer organization. The NBBWCP is currently expanding its *ToGetHer* Community Contact Program to reach out to First Nations communities within New Brunswick and provide support and information that is culturally relevant to Aboriginal women and their families who are dealing with cancer.

Representatives from national cancer organizations, cancer survivors, community representatives and medical professionals will be speaking throughout the event about their experiences and perspectives with breast and gynecological cancers. Dr. Rob Rutledge, a Radiation Oncologist and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University, and co-founder of the Healing and Cancer Foundation will give a keynote address entitled "The Body-Mind-Spirit Connection."

The President of the NBBWCP, Claire LeBlanc, will also announce the launch of the charity's first public fundraising campaign. The New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership will accept donations through its website, www.nbbwcp-pcscfnb.ca and will soon begin approaching corporate donors. This will allow the organization to expand its programs to meet the changing needs of women diagnosed with cancer in New Brunswick.

For more information about the New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership, contact the Community Program Coordinator, Sonia Ferron at (506) 858-8252, email NBwomenscancer@gmail.com, or visit www.nbbwcp-pcscfnb.ca