



Making a Difference in Cancer Care

# The Northern Cancer Foundation

## 2023 Report



Northern  
Cancer  
Foundation

Fondation  
du Nord  
en cancérologie



Health Sciences North  
Horizon Santé-Nord

# PHILANTHROPY TRANSFORMING CARE

An unprecedented and transformational gift to the Northern Cancer Foundation (NCF) of \$10 million from the Perdue-Fielding family will help support future capital investment and patient care at Health Sciences North (HSN) for generations to come. In recognition of the gift, the Northeast Cancer Centre has been renamed the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre.

"Jim and Shirley had a profound impact on my life," explained Gerry Perdue. "I know this is what my wife Norinne, who died of cancer in 2014 at age 54, would have wanted us to do. Jim died of prostate cancer in 2000 at HSN at age 62. Both received exceptional care here, as I did myself in orthopedic surgery a few years ago after an unfortunate accident. And our son Jason did part of his medical education at HSN."

"Northerners know that HSN was built too small, and that's a big problem. We are all getting older and that will put more pressure on HSN. When we heard about HSN's plans to increase the number of beds and expand services for kids and mental health and addictions patients, we knew we had to help," added Perdue.

*Thank you Perdue-Fielding family for leading the way in creating a healthier community.*



Photo of Jim and Shirley Fielding





## 2022-2023 KEY FACTS ABOUT THE SHIRLEY AND JIM FIELDING NORTHEAST CANCER CENTRE

- 3,000 new cancer patients, and approximately 15,000 chemotherapy and 38,000 radiation treatment visits (distributed delivery of care through partnerships across the region).
- Ranks consistently #1 for the past three quarters, among Ontario's 14 regional cancer programs on quality improvement indicators (data as of October 2022).
- Oversees the quality and delivery of cancer services for the residents of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin-Sudbury, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Temiskaming, and the James Bay and Hudson Bay Coasts.
- One of three sites in Canada selected for a project to provide patients across the region equitable access to clinical trials.
- Serves 600,000 people in Northeastern Ontario with 50% of cancer patients coming from outside of Greater Sudbury.



## HEALTHCARE INNOVATION IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PATIENTS

When Robert's doctor discovered a large tumour on his left shoulder, it had eroded his humerus bone from his shoulder all the way down to his elbow. Thanks to the expertise of specialized surgeons and the collaboration between orthopedic and oncology areas, an innovative surgery called tumour embolization was performed to block the blood flow to the tumour, followed by a procedure to remove the tumour and then reconstruction surgery using a prosthetic.

*"Thanks to the incredible support from my dream team of doctors, I'm back to living my life and doing the things I never dreamed would be possible again. I'm extremely grateful that I was able to attend my daughter's wedding after my recent health setback," said Robert.*

Donor support is providing medical advancements that are at the forefront of cancer care and surgery innovation that are changing and saving the lives of patients, just like Robert.



# IMPROVING PATIENT OUTCOMES THROUGH RESEARCH

Some of the most impressive cancer research in the province is being done right here in Sudbury. In 2022, the NCF provided **\$300,000** in grants to nine researchers and their teams to conduct research projects to improve cancer outcomes in patients across the region. Donor support is making this vital work possible as we strive for a future without cancer.

**Dr. Cano** – Leading the way in improving outcomes in patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

**Dr. Le** – Looking to develop new innovative therapies that stimulate the immune system in cancer patients to eradicate cancer and reduce the side effects during treatment.

**Dr. Ma** – Focus on exercise therapy to improve outcomes in cancer patients needing surgery.

**Dr. Parissenti** – Focus on how chemotherapy agents induce responses in tumour cells and how responses can predict patient outcomes and tailor patient care.

**Dr. Saunders** – Explores long-term treatment outcomes and genetic variations in head and neck cancer patients who smoke.

**Dr. Tharmalingham** – Rewiring the genetic code to alter breast cancer clinical outcomes and prevent resurgence of secondary cancers.

**Dr. Thome** – Using genetically modified microbes to combat side effects and improve the quality of life for patients following radiation therapy.

**Dr. Pitre** – Advancing the use of clinical trials and expanding the availability of clinical trials in Northeastern Ontario communities.

**Dr. Verschoor** – Investigating how radiation treatment causes oral fungal infection in head and neck cancer patients.

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## COMMUNITY OF CARING – SUPPORTING CANCER PATIENTS TOGETHER

Making a difference is what it is all about for individuals and community groups who fundraise to support cancer patients and their families on their health journey. Here is a closer look at some of the fundraising efforts – thank you for all that you do!

### LUNCHEON OF HOPE RAISED \$1,123,000 SINCE ITS INCEPTION

In 2022, the Luncheon of Hope raised over **\$65,000** to help support the purchase of specialized breast cancer equipment and fund breast cancer research. Because of donors and partners like you, the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre has some of the latest in medical equipment to ensure that cancer patients across our region get the quality of care they need, close to home. We look forward to celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Luncheon of Hope this year with you!







**LOCKERY COMPOSITE SECONDARY SCHOOL – REACHED \$1 MILLION TOTAL** – Since 1995, students have run a door-to-door cancer drive in memory of Laura Cotesta to raise money for pediatric oncology. They reached a phenomenal **\$1 million** fundraising total to support children and youth across our region.



**TEE IT UP FOR TERRY GOLF TOURNAMENT** – Terry Ames wanted to inspire hope for patients and their families by giving back after his cancer diagnosis and great care at the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre. Now cancer-free, Terry's Tee it Up for Terry Golf Tournament and car raffle fundraisers have helped **145 patients** and their families on their journey.



**ANGELS IN PINK** – The volunteers who make up Angels in Pink have worked tirelessly for over a decade to garner community support while fundraising to purchase equipment, like the MRI breast coil table, a new colposcope, and more, to assist in early cancer detection and diagnosis.

**CRISTINA'S COFFEE HOUSE** – Cristina's Coffee House started in 2013 (after Cristina's passing from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the age of 29) and has since raised over **\$170,000** and helped over 160 cancer patients from Northern Ontario who need to travel for cancer treatment.

**MOOSE LODGE** – The Moose Lodge has raised over **\$30,000** since 2013 to support pediatric care. They have helped renovate two pediatric oncology rooms and support a number of patient support-related distributions through these fundraising efforts.



**XTERRA: CONQUER THE CRATER** – The funds raised from this premier endurance event support families with children who have cancer. John MacDonald and Tracy Hayes, whose son Malcolm experienced a rare tumour in his ear, started the event as a way to give back to the community. The Conquer the Crater team raised over **\$93,000** in 2022, bringing their four-year total to \$196,000.

**RALLY FOR DAD** – Since 2001, the event has raised almost \$500,000 (**\$40,000** in 2022) for the fight against prostate cancer at the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre. Over 100 riders come out each year to raise awareness about the disease and the importance of early detection.

# HSN 50/50 FUNDED EQUIPMENT IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CANCER PATIENTS

Every ticket purchased helps fund vital equipment and enhancements to treatment areas that support patients – with the most recent being renovations to the radiation bunker to treat cancer patients from across the region at the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre. Along with donor support, a portion of the funds needed to support this initiative came from the 50/50 lottery.

*“Modern advances in the technology used to deliver radiation therapy to cancer patients allow staff to deliver focussed treatments while effectively sparing normal tissues from damage. By modernizing our equipment, we can simultaneously improve control rates and decrease the side effects of radiation treatment,” said Dr. Andrew Pearce, Radiation Oncologist at the Cancer Centre.*



The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 179 Capreol presented the NCF with a cheque for \$10,000 from the Poppy Fund to support the linear accelerator upgrades and renovations at the Cancer Centre. When asked what inspired the gift, member Barry McWhinnie said they give because of the high cancer rates in the community of Capreol.

– Merv Allum, Louis Dines, and Barry McWhinnie – the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 179 Capreol have given more than \$50,000 to support NCF over the past 30 years.



# HSN 50/50-FUNDED EQUIPMENT IMPACTING CANCER PATIENTS

## TWO EXERA VIDEO PROCESSORS AND LIGHTSOURCES SCOPE TOWERS

"High-definition scope towers help us visualize cancers in areas that we can't see in the back of the nose and throat. It allows us to use smaller tubes that are more comfortable for the patient and it gives us a better high-definition view that is vastly superior to what we had previously," said Dr. Andrew Pearce.



## BREAST VACUUM BIOPSY SYSTEM

"The breast vacuum biopsy system assists all of our breast biopsies conducted under mammography guidance. It ensures fast, safe, and high-quality care is delivered to our patients," said Chelsea Bartolucci, Manager of Medical Imaging at HSN.



## GRATEFUL FAMILY OF A LOVED ONE'S CARE AT THE CANCER CENTRE

*"My mom has been going through cancer treatments off and on at the Shirley and Jim Fielding Northeast Cancer Centre at HSN for several months after her diagnosis of uterine cancer. In March, she had a needle biopsy in the Diagnostic Imaging department as her cancer spread to her lungs. We are grateful for the support we received from the staff, nurses, and oncologists. They were kind, positive, knowledgeable, and genuinely care about my mom's well-being. My dad, brothers, and sisters have been included in decision-making and are welcome to every visit. My mom is continuing her chemo treatments and we are hopeful for a positive outcome."*



*Thank You!*

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