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REPORT
TO OUR
COMMUNITY



Alberta Cancer
FOUNDATION



WHILE COVID STOPPED MANY THINGS, IT DIDN'T STOP CANCER.

Fortunately, it also didn't stop innovation or a commitment to making sure we have the very best right here at home.

You made the commitment to help others. We thank you. Albertans thank you.

Wendy Beauchesne, CEO
Dr. Chris Eagle, Board Chair

OUR BOARD

OUR BOARD

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

AS THE WORLD TRANSFORMED

Everyone remembers where they were the month when the news came the world was shutting down. We remember the images of once-bustling city streets, suddenly empty. Essential workers navigated going to work while the rest of the world was in isolation. People lost their jobs. Businesses shut down. As the world transformed, so did we at the Alberta Cancer Foundation. We went through our own organizational change to ensure we deliver the very best to Albertans facing cancer and work as efficiently with our partners as possible.

WE RESPONDED

And while covid cancelled many things, it didn't stop cancer. It also didn't stop innovation, research and a commitment to making sure we have the very best right here at home. In fact, last year, 52,440 people donated, inspired to help create more moments for Albertans facing cancer. And because of those donors, the foundation was able to respond to the urgent needs of those Albertans and the 17 centres that serve them. Our patient financial assistance programs was accessed 4,400 times. We continued to support ground breaking cancer clinical trials and ground breaking research. Projects like the CAR-T cell therapy clinical trial led by Dr. Michael Chu. This revolutionary treatment

involves harvesting a patient's own immune cells and altering them in the lab to strengthen their ability to take on cancer. Once infused back in the patient, those modified cells proliferate and get to work. Typically an extremely expensive therapy, Dr. Chu's 'made-in-Alberta' clinical trial will use manufacturing sites in Calgary and Edmonton rather than commercial pharmaceutical facilities, to reduce the cost by as much as 90 per cent. Treatment will also be more timely and convenient, as patients have access closer to home. Donnie Bernado was one of the first patients to undergo this treatment in May and by this September was considered in remission. There is no greater news than that. You can read a bit more about him and many other examples of impact throughout this report.

YOUR COMMITMENT

That this inspiration continued despite the challenges in our province and the world is a testament to the Alberta spirit. In a year that brought us heartening stories of frontline heroes without capes, you were also one of those heroes.

Sincerely,

Wendy Beauchesne, CEO
and Dr. Chris Eagle, Board Chair

AT A GLANCE

April 2020 – March 2021

Fundraising events were cancelled all over the world, including Alberta. But people gave in other ways. Because of the diversity in our fundraising, people can support Albertans facing cancer in many ways.

HOW DID ALBERTANS GIVE ?

- They sent a one-time donation, like Tate and Reese who donated \$58 from a fundraiser they had in tribute of their Grampa Stewart.
- They became a Monthly Donor, like Greg from Grande Prairie.
- They gave in memory of a loved one, like Kelly who gave in memory of Chrissy.
- They donated securities, like Ed and Irene from St. Albert.
- They left a future gift in their Will, like Keith and Lynne from Cochrane.
- They volunteered, like Kyle who generously gave 98 hours of his time, helping our fundraising and administration team.
- They participated in a virtual event, like Colette from Edmonton who walked in the 5k
- They sponsored, like Landmark Cinemas who sponsored the Movie Drive-In Event that brought people together, but safely apart.
- They bought a Cash and Cars Lottery ticket, like Alex who won the Calgary Show Home and \$5,000 cash.

HOW DID WE HELP?

Helping Albertans facing cancer immediately.

CANCER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Because of you, the foundation helped thousands of Albertans through our Patient Financial Assistance Program and Patient Navigator Programs (including the Adolescent and Young Adult Navigator and Indigenous Navigator Programs) to help Albertans going through financial difficulties, as well as those finding difficulties navigating a complex cancer system.

URGENT NEED

Because of donors who gave to the Albertans Helping Albertans Fund, we could be flexible and adapt as urgent needs emerged. Priorities like the Text4Hope Campaign where the foundation proudly partnered with our friends at The Mental Health Foundation, Calgary Health Trust, the University Hospital Foundation, the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation and the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation to support this important mental health initiative.

COVID RESPONSE

As the effect of this global pandemic continued to evolve for Albertans, the needs of cancer patients province-wide continued to increase. The Alberta Cancer Foundation was grateful to have received a generous grant in partnership between The Government of Canada COVID-19 ECSF and United Way Alberta Northwest (and other chapters across the province) support our COVID-19 Psychosocial Emergency Response Program who helped cancer patients and their families with things like grocery gift cards.

EARLY DETECTION

In 2020, when there were so many unknowns, people were nervous to visit the doctor's office, so many of them stayed home. That meant cancer diagnoses were down. Early detection is important. It was critical to get the message out to Albertans that visiting the doctor was safe and to know their body, listen to their symptoms and see their doctor. In partnership with AHS, Alberta Health and Cancer Care Alberta, we helped launch a province-wide campaign called "Listen to Your Body."

Improving treatments for tomorrow.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Clinical trials are the foundation to every new medical advancement and are one of the core programs our donors support. Here in Alberta, our investigators lead the way in accruing patients, in attracting industry support and in launching revolutionary trials.

They also ask good questions and testing great ideas that have the potential to benefit patients here and around the world. Ingenuity is huge in this province and our donors support those excellent questions through investigator initiated trials (IITs), where made-in-Alberta ideas are put to the test, often leading to improvements to the standard of care.

BIOBANK

The foundation was also able to help launch a new biorepository that will allow for the long-term preservation of positive COVID-19 samples in the province. This biobank enables Alberta's world-class researchers local access to the biological material they need to further study the virus. Alberta Cancer Foundation donors have seen the important part biorepositories have played here in our province to help advance cancer research through the Alberta Cancer Research Biorepository and Tumour Bank.,

MADE-IN ALBERTA

Here are just two examples of IITs launched in 2020.

- Dr. Kurian Joseph with the University of Alberta and Radiation Oncologist at the Cross Cancer Institute launched phase II of a trial that identifies whether combined radiotherapy and vertebroplasty improves the quality of life for patients with painful, metastatic localized spinal lesions. This trial aims to help patients who experience severe pain which also leads to avoiding and minimizing the need for opioids.
- Dr. Jan Storek of the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary launched phase II of a study to evaluate graft-vs-host disease (GVHD) prophylaxis which can cause very poor quality of life — or worse — for patients after blood or bone marrow transplantation. The project will study different doses and treatment combinations to learn what will reduce the incidence of significant GVHD and improve survival, free of relapse and improve quality of life for patients.

Read more about clinical trials at albertacancer.ca/clinical-trials



MORE THAN A NUMBER

It was a year focused on daily COVID numbers. At the foundation, these are more than numbers. These are Albertans, our family, our friends and loved ones. Their stories impact us all.

59,852
Albertans visited one of the
17 cancer centres across the
province 729,012 times

In August 2018, Lorri Winship's life changed completely when she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. The Drayton Valley-native was told that her cancer was incurable and that she should develop a palliative care plan. Through 2020 and to today, Lorri lives with appreciation for each day while receiving treatment at the Drayton Valley Community Cancer Centre. She looks back at those trying times saying, "I was able to overcome those challenges, and now I'm more appreciative than ever."

7,229
monthly donors

Diana from Grande Prairie is a generous Alberta Cancer Foundation monthly donor. After losing her paternal grandfather to lung cancer 11 years ago, Diana decided to continue making a \$5 gift each and every month to keep his memory alive and help find a cure.

In their time of urgent need,
Albertans accessed Patient
Financial Assistance
4,456 times

"My name is Amber and I am currently fighting the battle of leukemia at the Tom Baker Cancer centre. It has been a lot to take in as I was also diagnosed with diabetes at the same time. I was brought to Calgary and admitted on November 4, 2020 and have been receiving treatment ever since. Being from a small town in Alberta and not from Calgary, the costs of everything has put quite the burden on my family. The grocery vouchers I received from you have been a godsend at this time. Every little bit of help is so much appreciated and I wanted to give thanks and let you know just how grateful I truly am. From the bottom of mine and my family's hearts we thank you." A patient who received vouchers through the Alberta Cancer Foundation COVID-19 Psychosocial Emergency Response Program

113
active cancer research projects led
by the brightest minds in Alberta

Dr. John Lewis, the Frank and Carla Sojonky Chair in Prostate Cancer Research and APCaRI Chair, is leading the way in prostate cancer research. Since 2012, the Lewis Laboratory has been studying the critical steps of cancer progression, including the growth of new blood vessels and the gain of tumour cell movement that leads to the spread or metastasis of prostate cancer. In addition, Dr. Lewis and his team have developed a new blood test, ClarityDX Prostate, which differentiates between aggressive and non-aggressive prostate cancer – saving lives and preventing unnecessary prostate biopsies.

1,022

patients enrolled in a clinical trial and 75 new clinical trials opened

Donnie Bernardo was 27 when he was diagnosed with leukemia. He underwent years of treatment - from chemotherapy, radiation to immunotherapy - but cancer continued to spread, and he had no other treatment options left. In 2020, his doctors approached to take part in the CAR T-cell therapy clinical trial led by Dr. Michael Chu at the Cross Cancer Institute. Donnie was the second Albertan to receive CAR T- Cell therapy in Alberta on May 17, 2021. The clinical trial was an outstanding success and Donnie was the first Albertan to go into remission after receiving CAR T- cell therapy. "To me, CAR T is a lifesaver. It's something that's going to revolutionize cancer treatment and will help people like me who have no options left," he says.

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families have told us the Alberta Cancer Foundation is in their will

One of our generous, community philanthropists supported Albertans facing cancer in a significant way in 2020. Don and Donna Savard were both grateful patients of the Cross Cancer Institute. Sadly, Don passed away of lung cancer in 2009, and to honour his legacy, Donna and family established the Don & Donna Savard Family Endowment Fund, in support of Lung Cancer Research at the Cross Cancer Institute. The Savards truly cared about Albertans facing cancer, and chose to make impact through supporting cancer research. In the final days of Donna's own cancer journey, her selfless and generous spirit again shone brightly - making another significant gift supporting Dr. Jennifer Spratlin's research in pancreatic cancer. Thanks to the Savard family legacy, cancer patients and their families will continue to benefit from innovative research and life-saving therapies.

4,992

patients accessed the Alberta Cancer Foundation Patient Navigator Programs, including AYA and Indigenous Programs, with 15,475 interactions with nurse navigators

Cara Bradfield from Edmonton was 23 years old when she was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma. Cancer changes anyone's life, but especially an adolescent or young adult's. Cara was referred to a patient navigator who helped answer her questions about treatment, transitioning from working full-time to being on medical leave and concerns about her fertility.

CLOSE TO HOME

As we all stayed close to our communities during the pandemic, the foundation's mandate of supporting Albertans facing cancer as close to their homes as possible has never been more fitting. People who give to the foundation make it possible. Our partnership with Alberta Health Services also allows us to have an incredibly positive impact on Albertans in their own communities whenever we can. Anabell's story is a great example.

After being admitted to the emergency room in Medicine Hat to determine why she'd been feeling so unwell, Anabell Marroquin was given a diagnosis: she had acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Anabell began her cancer treatments at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary where she received a multi-stage, intensive method of chemotherapy that uses a combination of medicines at different points in treatment. "I could not receive the type of treatment I needed in my hometown of Medicine Hat, so I was being transferred to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre. The medical staff were so kind, genuine and compassionate. They knew that Calgary wasn't home for me, but made sure I felt at home. The days I was feeling really sick, they listened. There was humour involved as well. It was nice to laugh during moments I wasn't feeling well."

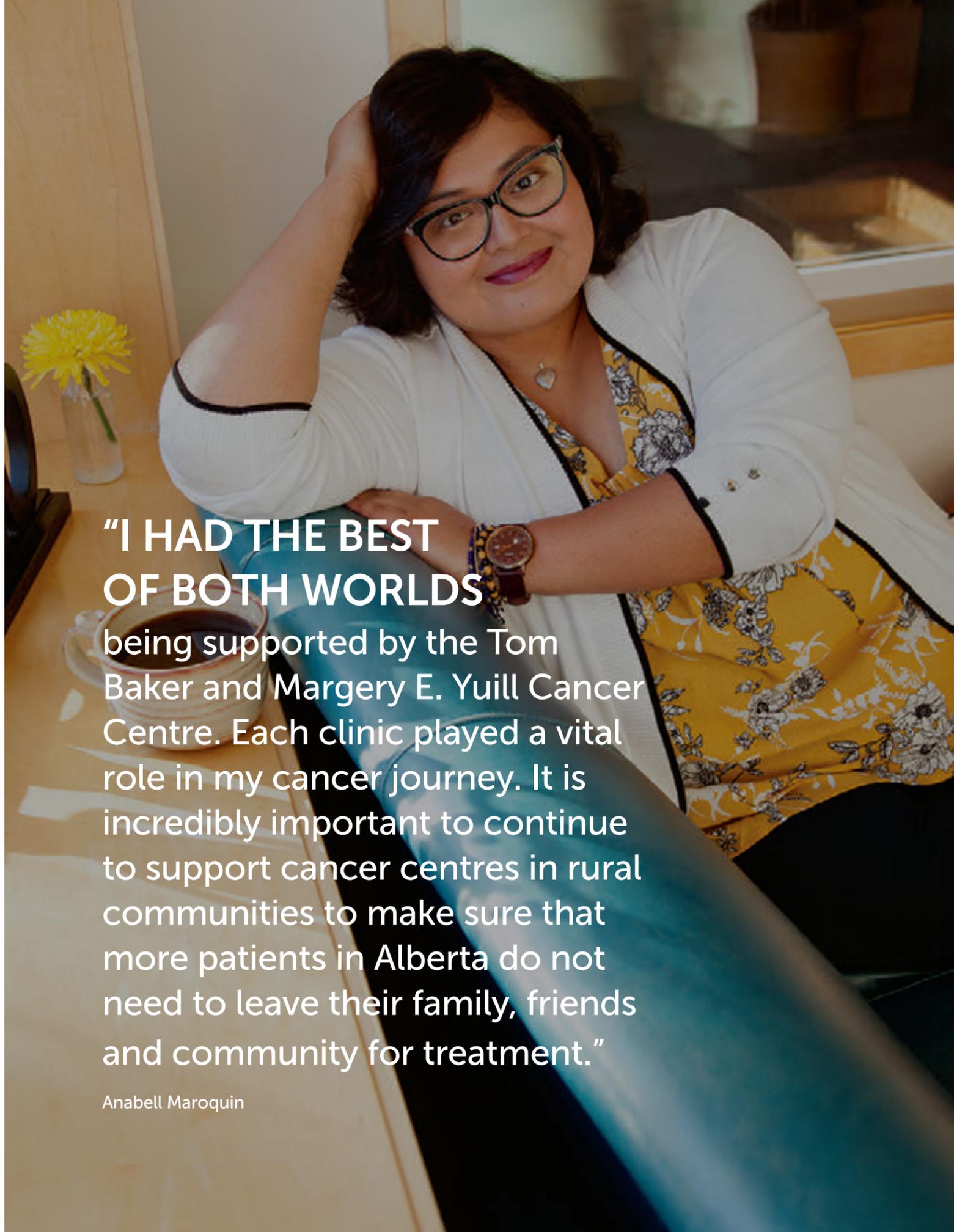
After a year, an expansion of the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital added over 23,000 square metres and 40 new out-patient treatment spaces. The Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre moved into the new wing, providing expanded care and treatment for cancer patients. The newly expanded cancer centre, allowed

Anabell to come back home and continue her treatment.

"I remember being so excited when I finally got the "YES" to move back home after one year in Calgary. It had been a difficult year because I was torn away from so many things. I didn't know what to expect with the transition, but it was amazing. The staff at Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre are basically like family to me. There, I had the opportunity to work with the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Patient Navigator Program, which made sure I was receiving support. My patient navigator connected me to a social worker if I needed someone to talk to."

"I had the best of both worlds being supported by the Tom Baker and Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre. Each clinic played a vital role in my cancer journey. It is incredibly important to continue to support cancer centres in rural communities to make sure that more patients in Alberta do not need to leave their family, friends and community for treatment. I truly believe it is so important for patients to be near their support system, cognitively, physically and spiritually as it can help them during their cancer journey."

Anabell Marroquin



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Anabell Marroquin

WHAT'S NEXT

Our purpose is to create more moments for Albertans facing cancer by inspiring our community to give to innovation in detection, treatment and care. We always ask: how can we continue to achieve on our purpose?

CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF CANCER IN ALBERTA

THE CALGARY CANCER CENTRE

Canada's largest, most comprehensive stand-alone cancer care centre is under construction in Calgary this very second. Concrete walls rising to the big prairie sky will shelter 1.3 million square feet of world-leading cancer care, research and education. By gathering the right people with the right tools under one roof, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform cancer care and treatment as we head in to the next two years. The more we own cancer, the less it owns us.

THE CROSS CANCER INSTITUTE

The Cross Cancer Institute has quietly become a powerhouse of research and innovation. It is a beloved centre, during difficult times. As more and more patients and families walk through the doors of the Cross, we want to help staff meet those growing needs. We want to help create a space as extraordinary as the care being delivered under that roof.

ACROSS ALBERTA

Our commitment reaches far beyond Edmonton and Calgary. We are dedicated to harnessing the support of rural Alberta to ensure everyone, in every part of the province, has access to the best treatment and care

PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

In addition to always having a straight line of sight to patients facing a cancer diagnosis today, and with our strategic partners in AHS, Cancer Care Alberta and the universities, we will continue to value the importance of early detection through research projects like these that are leading to improved cancer detection:

- Radon testing in Alberta to help prevent lung cancer, led by Dr. Aaron Goodarzi of University of Calgary with support from Alberta Cancer Foundation donors for the Evict Radon Project.
- Artificial Intelligence to detect cancer earlier – Dr. Khaled Barakat at the University of Alberta leads a project that uses modelling with super-computers. Instead of performing research in a traditional lab, Dr. Barakat uses a supercomputer to help researchers map the atomic structure of cancerous or healthy cells. This can help predict interactions between drugs and targeted cells, and has led to more thorough research that progresses much faster than it would have in the past.

Read more about programs at albertacancer.ca/for-patients

TOUR ALBERTA

The Tour is the next generation of an iconic fundraising event, the most "Alberta" event this province has ever seen. We continue to cycle with Albertans who want to fundraise in tribute to their friends and family who have been through a cancer experience. The Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer will be held on the weekend of July 22, 2022. For a decade Albertans have been pedaling for progress in support of world-class cancer research and life-saving care.

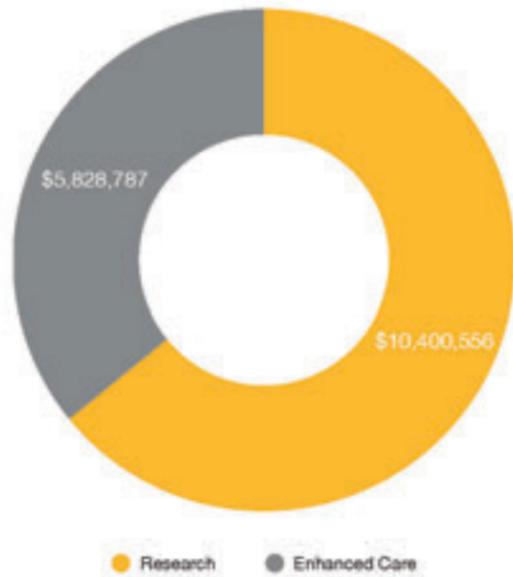


Read more about the Tour or register for next year at turalbertaforcancer.ca

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

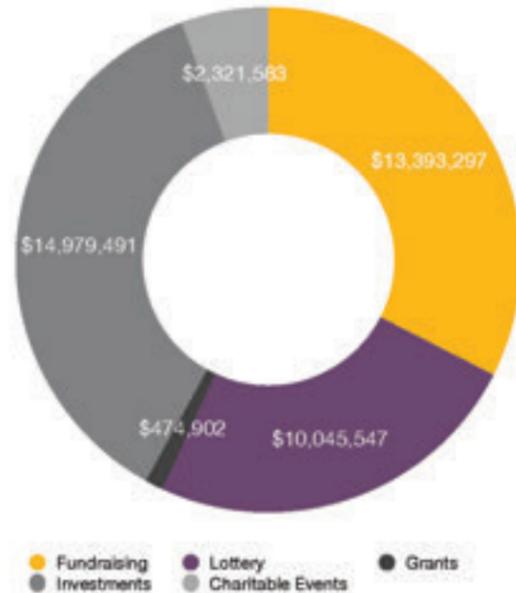
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Over the past year, thanks to community donations and support, we were able to invest more than \$16.2 million in life-saving and life-changing programs, research and equipment at 17 cancer centres. There was a delay caused by the global pandemic for some program areas; this funding will be disbursed in the 2021-22 year.



REVENUE

Our generous donors raise funds in a number of ways, all meaningful to them. From golf tournaments to monthly donations, from buying lottery tickets to Albertans leaving us in their will. We are grateful for all of you.



View full audited financial statements at albertacancer.ca/reports

THANK YOU

We are proud to be the fundraising partner for 17 cancer centres across this province. You, our donors show us the importance of supporting excellent care in your community, close to home. You have enabled us to make significant investments in the system, all leading to impact for Albertans.

When they need it and where they need it. We are privileged to support Alberta innovation, discovery and compassionate care with your help.

COVID DIDN'T STOP CANCER. IT DIDN'T STOP YOUR GENEROSITY, EITHER.

Especially now, we need to make sure Albertans continue to have access to the best possible treatment and care. Thank you for creating more moments for Albertans facing cancer.



2020 - 2021
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