



**LUNG  
CANCER  
CANADA**

AWARENESS. SUPPORT. EDUCATION.

## ***Lung Cancer is Nova Scotia's and Canada's #1 Cause of Cancer Death***

Lung cancer accounts for 26% of cancer deaths in Nova Scotia. It is estimated that 720 people in this province will die this year from lung cancer – **more than breast, prostate and colorectal cancer combined!**

It is the most common cancer in Canada and kills twice as many Canadians as any other cancer. Lung cancer is a devastating disease and a major public health issue. **It's time to fight back.**

If you have lungs, you can get lung cancer: one in 12 Canadians will be diagnosed with this disease. Not a smoker? The fact is that the majority of lung cancer diagnoses are among former smokers (many having quit years ago) or never smokers. And for causes that are unclear, nonsmoking women are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer than nonsmoking men.

Lung cancer's five-year survival rate is 17%. At 14%, people living with lung cancer in Nova Scotia seem to be doing somewhat worse than the national average.

This virulent disease receives little public attention – in part because its survival rate remains so low, which drastically diminishes the voice of those affected, and in part because of the relationship between lung cancer and smoking, which has cast a net of stigma and blame.

Although lung cancer research and treatment are seriously underfunded – receiving less than 6 percent of the nation's cancer research donations – **meaningful progress is well underway.** Researchers are part of exciting advances, including targeted drug therapies. Latest data suggests that both quality of life and longevity are improving with these new treatments. Other steps forward include the development of high-precision radiation, robotic surgery, other minimally invasive surgery techniques, and recent evidence supporting low-dose CT scans as an effective screening tool for the disease.

### ***Lung Cancer Needs***

Lung cancer patients **deserve the opportunities, care, and public support** afforded to other cancer patients. Every province needs to adopt a **screening program** using low dose CT to help with early detection and diagnosis in those at high-risk for lung cancer. **Timely molecular testing** needs to occur at diagnosis so that we can get the right drug to the right patient at the right time. To continue the positive increase in survival rate, **research funding** needs to be brought to levels consistent with the level of need in lung cancer.

**It's critically important to invest now to fight lung cancer. We ask Nova Scotia to join us in the fight.**