



For Immediate release
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IN 40 DAYS, CANADA TAKES STEPS FOR TOURETTE SYNDROME

MISSISSAUGA, ON—Today, February 15, 2017, marks the kick-off of 40 days until the Trek for Tourette hits local communities across the country. The number 40 is significant as it reflects the 40th anniversary of Tourette Canada, the leading support and advocacy organization for Tourette Syndrome (TS).

The 9th Annual Trek for Tourette, taking place **Sunday, March 26, 2017**, will see hundreds of people in cities and towns across Canada putting their feet to the pathways for a 5 KM charity fun walk to support Tourette Canada in its annual fundraising drive.

Trek locations, in alphabetical order, include: Calgary; Caraquet, NB; Edmonton; Hamilton-Halton-Niagara; London; Montreal; Muskoka Region; Ottawa; Peterborough; Roblin, MB; St. John's; Sudbury; Toronto; Vancouver; Victoria; West Grey/Ayton, ON; Waterloo-Wellington, ON; and Winnipeg.

The goal is to raise \$130,000 nationally in support of Tourette Syndrome, a highly misunderstood and heavily stigmatized neurodevelopmental disorder that affects as many as **1 in 100 Canadian** children and adults. It currently has no cure.

“We’ve always prided ourselves on the grassroots nature of our organization, but the needs of our stakeholders are outgrowing our ability to service them,” explains Janet Rumsey, National Trek Coordinator and current member of the Board of Directors.

“With more than 1 in 50 kids being diagnosed with TS and/or one of its associated disorders like OCD and ADHD—not to mention other conditions like anxiety and rage disorders - it’s time we as a nation recognize that neurodevelopmental disorders are mainstream and growing rapidly in the frequency of their diagnosis”, says Rumsey, a mother of four boys with TS who has Tourette Syndrome herself.

Tourette Canada relies on the generosity of Canadians to support its ongoing work to educate, promote awareness, and provide a supportive network to families diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome.

To schedule an interview with an individual or for further information on the disorder, the event, or about Tourette Canada, please contact Janet Rumsey or Executive Director Deborah Thomson. Event images are available for media use by request.

About Tourette Canada—Established in 1976, Tourette Canada is the only federally registered, charitable organization of volunteers assisting individuals affected by TS and its associated disorders. We are dedicated to creating awareness and understanding of TS through education, advocacy, and support.

To make a donation or to get involved, visit on www.tourette.ca/trek.

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