



MENINGITIS RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

[meningitis.ca](http://meningitis.ca)

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

## eNewsletter (June) 2019

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Kathryn Blain, has met with university and college staff and students to provide feedback for the most effective messaging to students about Meningitis....Who's at Risk and Vaccines available. Three posters were developed, depicting lifestyle risks, symptoms, availability of Vaccines. Kathryn and Regan Rogerson developed two *whiteboard animated characterization videos* of meningitis nuances: What is meningitis?, signs & symptoms and vaccination information. A *Student Survivor Story* video was created of Keaton Grassi, depicting the after effects of meningococcal disease. Mary Clough tells a *Mother's Story* about the loss of her daughter Mackenzie. Meningitis media files can be viewed at: <https://www.meningitis.ca/infokit>



### MEDICAL AND VACCINE UPDATES

Dr. Gold reports that the incidence of invasive meningococcal disease remains at a all time low in Canada, reflecting the efficacy of MenC and MenACYW vaccines given in routine use to infants and adolescents. The outbreak of MenB in Quebec was controlled by MenB vaccination. A second MenB vaccine was approved for use in Canada: Trumenba. The vaccine is composed of two purified, recombinant lipoprotein antigens derived from the cell membrane of MenB strains. It has been approved for use in children and young adults, 10-25 years of age. Two doses required.

### CoMO GLOBAL EVENTS UPDATE

In March of 2018, Greg Hum (MRFC Chair) and Michael Redfearn had the honour of representing the MRFC at the 7th CoMO Global Conference on meningitis in Singapore. 42 delegates from 27 organizations attended from around the world to participate in the two day conference. Conference sessions included: tailored workshops on fundraising and regional development, presentations on vaccine updates and vaccine hesitancy, fundraising strategies from two expert guest speakers, case studies from members and global project updates. Michael Redfearn is our Regional rep for CoMO and serves as secretary on the CoMO Governing Council. Michael and Greg will represent MRFC at the upcoming CoMO Global Conference in London, England in November 2019.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS

There have been 5 fundraising events raising a total of over \$50,000.

- ◆ Shorcan Charity Event
- ◆ Sarah Hastings Memorial Ringette Tournament & Dinner
- ◆ Mohawks for Meningitis
- ◆ Wine Auction (World Meningitis Day)
- ◆ Peninsula Lions Club Dinner

The [Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada](http://Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada) is a grassroots organization, dedicated to the prevention of meningitis, to improving survival rates and outcomes, and to the support of families of those whose lives have been changed by the disease. Since its inception, the MRFC has had many notable accomplishments that have had a significant impact on the prevention of meningitis in Canada. There is, however an opportunity for much more to be done nationally to meet the MRFC's objectives.