

The Canadian Lung Association Backgrounder

Canada's voice on lung health issues

The Canadian Lung Association is one of Canada's oldest and most respected health charities, and the leading national organization for science-based information, research, education, support programs and advocacy on lung health issues.

We began in 1900 to control the spread of tuberculosis and provide better services for TB patients. Today, we focus on all issues that affect the ability of Canadians to breathe every day. As a not-for-profit and volunteer-based health charity, we depend on donations from the public to support lung health research, education, prevention, and advocacy.

Our mission

For over 100 years, The Canadian Lung Association has been dedicated to its mission of promoting and improving lung health for all Canadians. We lead nationwide and international lung health initiatives, prevent lung disease, help people manage lung disease, and promote lung health.

What we do

We work at the national, provincial and community levels to improve and promote lung health. We focus on chronic lung diseases like asthma and COPD, infectious diseases like tuberculosis, flu, and pneumonia, and breathing disorders including sleep apnea. We provide reliable and trusted information to the public, governments and advocates for improvements in patient care for those with lung disease.

We inform Canadians about the health effects of air pollution, indoors and out. We help smokers who are trying to quit. We encourage governments at every level to create laws and policies that promote clean air and protect our lungs.

We fund world-class medical research in Canada to find treatments, and ultimately, a cure for lung diseases. Through the Canadian Thoracic Society and Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals, we help doctors and allied health professionals set the highest standards in patient care and continue to expand their knowledge about lung diseases and treatments.

Our provincial and national offices work together to help the one in five Canadians who have breathing problems.

Year of the Lung

2010 has been declared the Year of the Lung, by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS). The goal of this global campaign is to raise awareness about lung health among the public, initiate action in communities worldwide, and advocate for resources to combat lung disease including increased investment in basic, clinical and translational research worldwide.

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For more information on The Canadian Lung Association, visit www.lung.ca or contact:

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