

2003-2004 ANNUAL REPORT

REHABILITATION FOUNDATION FOR DISABLED PERSONS, CANADA

Stroke Recovery Canada™

Stroke Recovery Canada™ began preparing for its 2004-2005 launch in the final quarter of 2003-2004, thanks to the sponsorship support and visible participation from **Sanofi-Synthelabo Canada Inc.** – one of the country's fastest growing and leading research-based pharmaceutical companies. With the launch of this second national peer support network, Ontario March of Dimes restructured staffing to create two positions: Provincial Peer Support Coordinator and National Peer Support Manager. This will help to integrate the activities that support both post-polio and stroke recovery programs into one integrated department. The primary corporate focus is to establish significant ongoing financial support, while the staff focus is to expand and develop groups across the country, building the survivor registries of both programs, and increasing support and recognition of survivor and caregiver issues and experiences.

Polio Canada®

National Polio Survivors Network®

Staff began preparing a full program report for submission to the Population Health Fund of Health Canada, along with a user evaluation prepared by external consultant, John Fitzgerald. Both documents will detail work largely funded by Health Canada over two years.

Highlights of the past fiscal year include:

- production and distribution of two issues of the national newsletter, *PoliO'Canada*
- launch of a bilingual Polio Canada® Web site at www.poliocanada.com
- delivery of a National Leadership Training Conference in August
- coordination of the second national campaign during Polio Awareness Month in March
- an increase in the polio survivors registry that totals 1,716 clients and 188 health care professionals
- the addition of two new groups bringing the total to 29 groups and subgroups
- the completion of two resource documents that were distributed across the country – the Support Group Leaders Handbook and an awareness campaign handbook entitled, the “Catalogue of Possibilities”



The organization developed and provided promotional materials to all local and provincial groups engaged in awareness activities. Results valued at over \$31,000, showed an increase in media exposure over 2003. The Registry experienced 96% of projected growth, demonstrating a strong, sustainable, vibrant national network.

A Summary of Issues

Two issues face the Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Persons, Canada with regard to its two new programs – sustainability and brand development. Both networks were well funded in the formative stages and drew heavily on the expertise of Ontario March of Dimes' staff, relying on the parent organization's experience operating a provincial Post-Polio Program since 1982, and supporting a stroke recovery program for over a decade. Together these programs constitute Peer Support Services within Ontario March of Dimes (OMOD®).

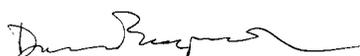
Funding is key to meeting the needs and expectations of survivor groups and caregivers as we go forward. Existing staff now provide professional knowledge, develop resources, coordinate the networks, deliver support and training, respond to individual and group concerns, publish and maintain newsletters and Web site content, and have built credibility for the concept of service via peer networks. The organization presented two major funding proposals and is awaiting decisions – one from the revamped federal government agency, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and one from a private foundation.

The second issue relates to branding the programs individually and not under the Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Persons, Canada, thus attracting local and provincial groups that are focused on a single issue. Currently, OMOD®'s role is in administration and operations. Resources would be necessary to develop a new national organization brand to build recognition and reputation. The groups recognize the key role OMOD® plays, but the organization's name does not offer national brand possibilities.

Finally, other Ontario March of Dimes' programs have the potential to develop into national programs, most notably, Conductive Education®, and perhaps the DesignAbility® Program, Befriending® Program & Recreation and Integration Services. OMOD® holds national registered marks for all those indicated, and has already responded to a request to assist in developing a children's Conductive Education® program in Halifax. In prior years, OMOD® has made presentations in other provinces, so further exploration could be pursued.

On behalf of the individuals and groups that have enjoyed enhanced support from the Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Persons, Canada, we extend deep appreciation to the Board of Directors, volunteers across the country, OMOD® staff and the Board of Directors of Ontario March of Dimes.

Respectfully submitted,



David Meynell,
Chair



Andria Spindel
President & C.E.O.

Financial Report

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2004	Polio Canada ®	Stroke Recovery Canada ®	2004	2003
Revenue	\$143,137	\$130,000	\$273,137	\$90,000
Expenses	220,726	8,792	229,518	90,078
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	(\$77,589)	\$121,208	\$43,619	(\$78)
Unexpended Funds			(121,208)	0
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses			(\$77,589)	(\$78)

Board of Directors

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