

# MARCH OF DIMES CANADA

2005-2006 Annual Report



## Marching In New Directions

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While incorporated in 2001 under the name Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Persons, we are delighted to advise that in 2005, Ontario March of Dimes acquired the trademark for “March of Dimes.” Therefore, going forward, this national organization will operate under the name *March of Dimes Canada*.

Our major goal is bring forth programs and services for people with disabilities to all parts of Canada, replicating the great work of Ontario March of Dimes. Below are descriptions of our first three innovative national programs. None of this would have been possible without national financial support. That is why our secondary goal is to build a fundraising program for March of Dimes and to bring back this proud Canadian brand to all provinces and territories as we celebrate the 55th year of the “March of Dimes” in Canada.



The highlight of 2005 - 2006 for Stroke Recovery Canada™ (SRC) was the launch of a new publication, *The Phoenix*. The Phoenix is designed to provide the reader information and resources on stroke recovery issues and is distributed nationally. Sharing of information and resources among stroke recovery groups and health professionals nationwide promotes the development of best practices in support, services and community involvement.

SRC ensures that the voices of stroke survivors and their caregivers are heard, although the pace of implementing stroke systems varies across provinces, one message remains consistent, the need and importance of involving stroke survivors back into their communities. The staff of SRC are consistently networking with Stroke Coordinators across the country to ensure that the peer support model is clearly understood and that survivors’ perspectives are considered when policy is developed.

With generous support from the Max Bell Foundation, SRC was able to commission a report on the Canadian stroke policy in September 2005. The report concluded that there is a little research into the benefits of peer and support for survivors and their caregivers in assisting the stroke survivors in community re-engagement. The paper highlighted the need for more evidence-based policy development in this area.

With over 300,000 stroke survivors in Canada, there is a need for timely and accurate information and resources. An initiative called “Survive & Thrive” has been our response and first of 2 series of summits to bring together key stakeholders across the continuum of care to examine how working together, we can help stroke survivors and their families members “Survive & Thrive” after a stroke. Future summits are planned for Vancouver, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay and Peterborough, and are open to; stroke ‘thrivers’, their care partners, health care and community service professionals in government and non-government organizations.

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Throughout 2005/2006 Stroke Recovery Canada continued to submit proposals and follow up on funding prospects. We are pleased to report that Allergan Pharmaceutical partnered with SRC to create "A Patients Guide to Stroke Recovery," which will be distributed to rehabilitation centers across Canada in June 2006. Green Shield Canada and Ontario Trillium Foundation provided funding in 2005/2006, which allowed SRC to provide some of the resources and expertise needed to build the national stroke recovery program.

Stroke Recovery Canada has seen a 10% growth in new chapters and groups in 2005/2006, while the survivor registry has grown by 15% in the fiscal year.



Polio Canada<sup>®</sup> focused much attention on events and activities that raised awareness of post-polio syndrome and highlighted Canada's involvement in the polio story. Sponsored by sanofi pasteur, a traveling historical display was developed honouring the contribution of Canadians in the development of the polio vaccine. The exhibit visited several cities including Toronto, Montreal, Cornwall, Edmonton, Ottawa and Vancouver.

2005 marked a special time in the polio survivor community as it was the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the Salk vaccine which helped eradicate the disease in North America as well as the anniversary of the implementation of Canada's universal polio vaccination program. Two significant events were coordinated by March of Dimes to celebrate the polio vaccine story; the unveiling of a new stamp by Canada Post and the International Association of Biologicals annual conference.

The stamp was unveiled September 2, 2005 during a special ceremony in Toronto at sanofi pasteur's historic Connaught Campus. Special guests at the event included: The Honourable Ken Dryden, then Minister of Social Development, Andria Spindel, President and CEO of March of Dimes Canada, Elizabeth Lounsbury, Chair of Polio Canada and Gordon Feeney, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Canada Post. The stamp features a celebratory message with colour silhouettes of six children jumping and playing with an image of an old pair of leg braces used by children who were affected by polio years ago. Polio Canada was instrumental in the creation of the stamp, including background research, working with the stamp designer and supplying the braces depicted on the stamp.

*Polio Vaccine: The First 50 Years and Beyond*, a three-day conference in June 2005, was co-sponsored by Polio Canada, World Health Organization (WHO), Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and sanofi pasteur. Sessions at the conference examined both the earliest and the latest science on the poliovirus and vaccines, as well as the status of current global eradication initiatives. Conference proceedings will be available in late 2006.

Polio Awareness Month in March 2006 resulted in localized activities throughout the country.

There was no chapter growth in 2005 - 2006. Activities were focused on maintaining the existing chapters, expanding their membership, and providing support and resources to groups as requested.



Currently, Ontario March of Dimes runs one of the largest Conductive Education (CE) programs in the world as measured by the number of Conductors employed to serve children and adults with disabilities. CE merges elements of educational theory and rehabilitation to assist children and adults with motor neurological disorders to maximize their independence and mobility.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Conductive Education program focused efforts on expansion outside of Ontario. This was accomplished by meeting with various groups, associations and organizations outside of Ontario and conducting demonstrations of the program. Representatives of CE spoke and held consultations at the Atlantic Cerebral Palsy Association conference in May 2005. The visit generated so much interest that March of Dimes was asked to hold a two-week pilot program in August 2005 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The program was officially launched in Halifax in February 2006 with eight children enrolled. Rachael Skinner, the Lead Conductor who operates the program in Halifax, graduated from the National Institute of Conductive Education (NICE) in 2001.

Successful CE programs operated year-round in Toronto, London and Woodstock. Unfortunately, services has been suspended in Ottawa, but an intensive marketing strategy is planned for 2006.

As a way to sustain services outside of Ontario various fundraising initiatives are being planned for Halifax to start in the Fall of 2006.

Karli Emmett was the recipient of March of Dimes' 2005 Transamerica Life Canada Conductive Education Award. She was awarded \$30,000 to study abroad at the University of Wolverhampton, a dynamic, partner university in the delivery of Conductor training in England. This three-year program results in a BA (Hons) Conductive Education with a Qualified Conductor Status (QCS) - a certification requirement for all Conductors. The intensive course is comprised of six semesters where students work and learn within conductive groups at the National Institute of Conductive Education.

Karli is a graduate of Brock University where she received her BA in Community Health. She joins 2004 award winners Beth Brydon and Vashali Malholtra who will be entering into their second-year at the University of Wolverhampton

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Meynell".

**David Meynell**  
*Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andria Spindel".

**Andria Spindel**  
*President and C.E.O.*



# Financial Report

(A complete Auditors Report is available upon request)

## MARCH OF DIMES CANADA

Summarized Statement of Revenue and Expenses

March 31, 2006 with comparative figures for 2005

	Polio Canada®	Stroke Recovery Canada®	P.A.C.E. Canada®	2006 TOTALS	Polio Canada®	Stroke Recovery Canada®	2005 TOTALS
Revenue	5,858	25,323	8,530	<b>39,711</b>	36,360	200,534	<b>236,894</b>
Expenses	108,524	140,471	22,948	<b>271,943</b>	67,122	164,619	<b>231,741</b>
Excess of revenues over expenses	(102,666)	(115,148)	(14,418)	<b>(232,232)</b>	(30,762)	35,915	<b>5,153</b>

**Note:** Rehabilitation Foundation for the Disabled, operating as Ontario March of Dimes has provided financial contributions to March of Dimes Canada to offset expenses incurred in excess of reported revenues

## 2005-2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Mike Goodman, Past Chair**

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Charitable Registration No. (BN) 87958 5214 RR0001

