# BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2020



# **CHAPTER INFORMATION**

#### Vancouver Chapter

Co-Presidents: Manny Abecia and Yasmin Hamzah britishcolumbiahd@gmail.com

South Vancouver Island Chapter President: Khalilah Alwani southislandHD@gmail.com

Okanagan Chapter President: Dan Middleton hscokanagan@yahoo.ca

NEW! Yukon Area Representative: Annette Sinclair 867-634-2888 annettepatriley@gmail.com

#### HSC National Office

20 Erb St. W, Suite 801, Waterloo, ON N2L 1T2 1-800-998-7398 info@huntingtonsociety.ca

# HSC RESOURCE CENTRES

Family Services Program available at HSC Resource Centres includes:

- Information on HD and strategies for care
- Connecting families with community services/ resources through referral and advocacy
- Educational sessions to community groups and healthcare professionals

#### **BC HSC Resource Centre**

Rhonda Romolock, BSW, RSW • Resource Centre Director 604-822-7195 • <u>rromolock@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>

Natalie Cruz, BSW • Social Worker NEW! 604-818-5963 ncruz@huntingtonsociety.ca

#### **Fraser Valley**

Natalie Cruz, BSW • Social Worker **NEW!** 604-818-5963 <u>ncruz@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>

South Vancouver Island, Victoria Jenni Aitken, MSW • Family Services Worker 250-704-2512 • jaitken@huntingtonsociety.ca

Okanagan, Kelowna and Area Lara Kuchta, BSW, RSW • Family Services Worker 250-712-6225 • <u>Ikuchta@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>

The British Columbia Huntington Disease Resource Centre (BC-HDRC) is located at the UBC Hospital, and offers the Huntington Society of Canada's Family Services Program. Rhonda Romolock is the Resource Centre Director and is available four days per week.

# **BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS**

## **Province-Wide Events**

RaceHD is our national running group that runs, walks or rolls in races across the country to raise money for Huntington disease. If you would like more information about the races and how to register, visit <u>p2p.onecause.com/raceHD</u>. If you have found a race near you that is not listed, contact us at <u>events@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>.

## Vancouver Chapter

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

On September 15, we held our Huntington Heroes Walk. We had a fantastic turnout, excellent food and entertainment, support from First Responders Heroes and raised over \$35,000 for HD! Thank you to everyone who made it out and supported the event!

#### MEETINGS

**CHAPTER MEETINGS** - held on the second Wednesday of each month, alternating between the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics - 950 W 28th Ave, Vancouver, BC at 7:10 p.m., and teleconference meetings. For more information, contact the Chapter at <u>britishcolumbiahd@gmail.com</u>.

**HD SUPPORT GROUP** - This group is for people diagnosed with HD and meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. from September to June. It's a safe place to discuss various topics related to HD, get support and have some time at the end of the group to socialize. Please contact Natalie for more information at <u>ncruz@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>.

**CAREGIVER GROUP** - This group offers caregivers an opportunity to connect with others experiencing similar concerns. We meet on the third Monday of every second month from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. from September to June. Please contact Rhonda Romolock at <u>rromolock@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>.

## South Vancouver Island Chapter

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

We had a wonderful showing for our fall Community Education Forum at the Victoria Public Library, and received lots of good feedback about the event. We also had a great year for Amaryllis sales. If you are interested in getting more involved in the local chapter, please contact <u>SouthIslandHD@gmail.com</u>.

### MEETINGS

The second Thursday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. from September to June is the **Support Group for People Living with HD**, at Selkirk Place, 385 Waterfront Crescent in Victoria, BC. Please contact Jenni for more information at jaitken@huntingtonsociety.ca.

The third Tuesday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from September to June is the **Caregivers and Friends of People with HD Support Group** at Queen of Peace Church Hall, 849 Old Esquimalt Road, Victoria, BC. Please contact Jenni for more information at <u>jaitken@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>.

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# **HD RESOURCES**

## **Clinical Trials**

Participating in a clinical trial is a personal choice. Clinical trials can help advance medical research.

HSC encourages those interested to connect with their Resource Centre Director to discuss possible impacts of participating.

For locations and contact person, visit: www.huntingtonsociety.ca/clinical-trial-locations

## HDBuzz.net

HD research news. In plain language. Written by scientists for the global HD community. Stay up to date with the latest research news about HD from around the world! Visit <u>www.en.hdbuzz.net</u> for more information.

## **HD Fact Sheets**

Fact sheets on a variety of topics relating to HD including communication, clinical trials and behaviour are available on our website at <u>www.hdfactsheets.ca</u>.

# **GET INVOLVED**

### TeamHD

Join the team of people that are involved in planning and participating in HSC events across the country.

Follow us on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/hschappenings</u>

For more information on how to get involved in events, go to <u>www.teamHD.ca</u> or contact the HSC Events Team at 1-800-998-7398, ext. 138 or <u>events@huntingtonsociety.ca</u>.

## Volunteer

Our strongest asset is our dedicated volunteers. To learn more about how you can get involved and to fill out an application, visit <u>www.huntingtonsociety.ca/volunteer</u>.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

## **Okanagan Chapter**

### COMMUNITY NEWS

The Okanagan Chapter is looking for new members and volunteers to join our group. Anyone interested in participating in any capacity will be very welcome. Contact our president, Dan Middleton, for more information.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## HD Dance and Silent Auction

March 7, 2020: 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Elk's Lodge #45 Hall, Vernon, BC Enjoy a live performance from classic rock and roll band "Mace"! All are welcome! Donations of silent auction items would be greatly appreciated.

### MEETINGS

Our next meeting is scheduled on January 15, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. at White Spot Restaurant in Vernon, BC. All are welcome!

## Young People Affected by HD (YPAHD) Chapter

YPAHD helps youth think about and discuss issues such as genetic testing, family life, and dating with HD, and supports them in their struggles of being affected by the disease. This group gives young people someone with whom they can relate, talk to, and lean on. This support system can be incredibly important during this stage in life and beyond.

### MEETINGS

YPAHD is a virtual chapter that meets monthly via telephone. YPAHD conference calls are typically scheduled during the evening of the second Sunday of each month but this schedule is subject to change. Check social media or contact <u>ypahd@huntingtonsociety.ca</u> for more information.

info@huntingtonsociety.ca

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