Future Moments for Future Generations
The Alberta Cancer Foundation is the official fundraising partner for the 17 Alberta Health Services cancer centres.
Your gift to tomorrow’s Albertans

Your legacy will offer hope for years to come

Giving the perfect gift feels good, doesn’t it?

When you have taken the time to carefully choose something meaningful for a special person in your life, the joy you know it will bring is a beautiful reward.

The experience and feeling is the same when you make the decision to give a gift in your will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation. Your fellow Albertans facing a cancer diagnosis benefit from your generosity many times over, for many years to come.

We see the results of gifts in wills to the Alberta Cancer Foundation every day. More people are surviving after a cancer diagnosis. More people are returning to their families, their communities, their lives. More people are being given more moments.

A gift in your will has the power to change the landscape of cancer care in our province.

Here at home, we have the brightest minds in cancer care and research, and we can leverage today’s breakthroughs and propel them forward — bringing the world’s best cancer innovation, treatment, research, and patient supports to our doorstep for the next generation of Albertans.

That’s the lasting impact you can have on Alberta’s future, when you leave a gift in your will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

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Welcome from our CEO

Wendy Beauchesne shares what moves her the most

When I joined the Alberta Cancer Foundation, I was struck by our purpose: to create more moments for Albertans facing cancer.

It’s a simple yet powerful intention. For me, it’s also a personal one. When my mom was diagnosed with cancer, I wanted to make the most out of every moment we had together.

Every special moment we have celebrated together – from belly laughs, to family weddings, to cuddling new grandbabies – is a gift. And when you leave a gift in your will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, you’re giving that gift to more families. You’re helping to create more moments, more memories, more life for Albertans across the province.

I feel honoured when I consider that every donation has a deeply personal story. Knowing that a caring Albertan like you wants to make life better for others is truly touching.

From simple comforts that make treatment more bearable, to homegrown research breakthroughs, your gifts are what allow us to support innovation in cancer care today and into the future, and to do so with great care and kindness.

Thank you for considering the Alberta Cancer Foundation in your legacy.

A gift in your will is the ultimate generosity. It’s someone wanting to make this world a better place, even if they’re not here. Wanting to make life better for the next person.”

– Wendy Beauchesne, CEO, Alberta Cancer Foundation
I remember the first time my husband and I walked through the doors of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. I’d just found out I had uterine cancer.

Bill and I had been happily married, camping, hiking and traveling the world. Cancer was the furthest thing from our minds.

I got such wonderful care at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. They removed the tumour right away, and I luckily didn’t need any other treatment.

I decided I wanted to give back to the hospital that cared for me, so I trained to be a volunteer. That was the start of the most rewarding 28 years of my life.

I started learning that life-changing cancer research takes place right here in our province. That’s when Bill and I began donating to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

Later in life, cancer would touch us again. Bill got prostate cancer, and I was diagnosed with melanoma. We were both treated successfully, and continued travelling and enjoying retirement.

But in 2015, cancer devastated us. Bill succumbed to pancreatic cancer.

Bill was my best friend. Married for more than 53 years, I’m thankful we had so many memories together. We had the chance to talk about our legacy, about the mark we could leave on our community long after we’re gone.

My husband was always one who believed that you must give voluntarily. Our decision to give to the Alberta Cancer Foundation was a very easy one when we were discussing what to do in our will. I’m hoping our donation will help with research, better treatment for patients, and maybe a cure in some cancers.

Funding research — it’s the only way we’ll improve cancer diagnosis and treatment now and in the future.
I was a busy working mom of three when a breast lump stopped me in my tracks. It was stage 3C cancer: aggressive and spreading quickly.

I needed surgery, chemotherapy and radiation — but the news was grim. Even with treatment, my chances of being alive in five years were about 50 per cent.

But my care team at the Cross Cancer Institute offered promising news: I was eligible to participate in a clinical trial, studying a new way of mixing chemotherapy drugs.

The trial offered me access to cutting-edge treatment. In fact, the chemotherapy combination I got is now the best treatment for my type of cancer.

That was over 20 years ago. My husband Charlie and I have seen our children graduate from university and celebrated our daughter’s wedding.

My breast cancer returned twice, and both times I was grateful for the chance to participate again in clinical trials. There’s no doubt in my mind that I’m alive today because top doctors in Alberta are undertaking leading-edge cancer research.

That’s why we want to do everything we can to advance cancer treatment for our children’s generation.

We decided to leave a gift in our wills to the Alberta Cancer Foundation. It’s comforting to know that our gift will be used to help others who have run out of all other treatment options and are turning to a clinical trial as a last resort, a last hope.

By giving to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, we know we’re making an investment in our children’s futures. And that just feels like the right thing to do.”

— Jill Doiron, cancer patient and legacy donor
Legacy donations are instrumental in helping us to fund our clinical research programs. We’re just scratching the tip of the iceberg now with new research, and donations can help us fund research and hopefully improve cure rates even higher.

– Dr. Michael Smylie, Cross Cancer Institute

Big dreams for future generations

We’re closer than ever to a cancer-free future

Together, we’re getting closer every day. When you make a gift in your will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation, you’re giving a gift to cancer patients of the future across Alberta — the gift of more moments and hope for a cancer-free future.

You’ll empower Alberta’s world-leading researchers to continue their quest for novel treatments, test their revolutionary ideas, and collaborate locally and internationally to determine ultimate diagnostic tools and treatment plans. And the environment of excellence you’re helping to create will continue to attract the best and brightest talent to our province.

You’ll help Alberta continue to keep pace and grow as a clinical trial powerhouse, bringing the newest treatments, novel ideas, and life-saving therapies to Albertan patients first.

You’ll play a critical role in Alberta’s ability to continue the pursuit of precision oncology — personalized treatment for each unique patient — and immunotherapy, a promising new way to harnesses the power of the body’s own immune-system to fight its disease.

You’ll ensure patients whose cancer journey has put them in a financial bind or those who are having difficulties navigating a complex cancer system have access to assistance.

You’ll make certain Albertans have the best possible care, with patient-focused spaces filled with healing and hope and access to care close to home at one of Alberta’s 17 cancer centres. Because of you, patients and families will be able to focus on what matters most — healing.

You’ll equip Albertans with state-of-the-art technology, world-class equipment, and talented personnel all working together to create more moments for Albertans facing cancer.

Future generations are relying on us to keep moving forward, to keep innovating. Together, we can continue to make massive strides in cancer research and improve the lives of patients and their loved ones.
During my 32-year career as a forest ranger and park warden, I covered much of Alberta’s terrain. From horseback to helicopter and wildfires in between, I had more than my share of close calls. Maybe that’s what made it so tough for cancer to knock me down.

When I retired at 55, I thought life would be a breeze after all those years in the field. So when my doctor told me I had lymphocytic leukemia, I thought well, this sure is lousy timing.

I was treated close to home at the Jack Ady Cancer Centre in Lethbridge. My leukemia is incurable, but the ongoing treatment has kept it controlled and allowed me to live my life.

A few years later, I had prostate cancer surgery. After a nine-day recovery, I walked out of hospital prostate-cancer-free.

With all that behind me, I barely blinked when my doctor suspected skin cancer a couple of years ago. After all, I’m a survivor — still going strong at 89!

I’m told I’m among the one million Canadians around who have survived cancer for more than 10 years.

We’re living proof that cancer treatments are getting better, thanks to the remarkable work being done right here in Alberta.

I feel incredibly grateful. And if we continue to see improvements in cancer treatment, the next generation will be talking even more about life after cancer.

I decided the best way to help make that happen was to leave a gift in my will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation. Every little bit helps.

I’ve had a long life filled with lots of good moments, and I feel good knowing I’m making sure more Albertans can, too.

It makes all of the difference to have the support of caring medical people. It’s comforting to be around them.”

– Frank Lightbound, cancer survivor and legacy donor
Learn about the impact legacy gifts are making

Your legacy has the power to change cancer treatment and care for future generations of Albertans facing cancer. We’re proud of the impact our donors are making, and share progress on our website and social media, plus we’d love to connect with you if you’d like to learn more.

Record the details you’ll need

If you include the Alberta Cancer Foundation in your will, your lawyer or financial advisor may ask you for the following information:

**Legal Name:** Alberta Cancer Foundation
**Charitable Registration Number:** 11878 0477 RR0001
**Address:** Alberta Cancer Foundation Provincial Office: 710-10123 99 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 3H1

Decide the type of gift that works for you and the wording you’d like to include in your will

Most people opt to make one of two types of gifts: residual or specific.

A residual gift allows you to give a share or a percentage of whatever is leftover in your estate to charity. You may prefer this option if you’re unsure of the total size of your estate or you’re interested in dividing up your total assets among a few beneficiaries.

**Sample wording for a residual gift:**
“I direct my Trustee to pay and transfer a _____ % share of the rest and residue of my estate to the Alberta Cancer Foundation (charitable registration # 11878 0477 RR0001).”

With a specific gift, you set a dollar amount to donate. You may prefer this option if you know the impact you want to make and the size of the gift that works for you.

**Sample wording for specific gift:** “I direct my Trustee to pay the sum of $_________ Dollars to the Alberta Cancer Foundation (charitable registration # 11878 0477 RR0001).”

This is also a great time to meet with a financial advisor who understands charitable giving and can help you plan your estate to meet the goals you envision.

Include in your revised will or a codicil

You can add the Alberta Cancer Foundation to your revised or new will, or to a codicil you can attach to an existing will. A codicil is a legal clause that can be used to make changes to an existing will without recreating the entire document.

**No matter where you are in your estate planning, we’re here to answer any questions you may have. Please reach out any time to the Alberta Cancer Foundation’s Director, Legacy Philanthropy, Christy Soholt, at 780-991-1088 or toll-free at 1-866-412-4222, or by email to christy.soholt@albertacancer.ca**
We were married in 1981 and looked forward to years spent snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, and enjoying the great Alberta outdoors. But out of nowhere, Doug was sidelined by a painful lump in his stomach.

Doug underwent major surgeries to remove a tumour that had attached to many major organs. But when the cancer came back, we were told to prepare for the worst. Little did we know, his journey of surgeries and recoveries had just begun.

We had been married for only six months before his diagnosis, and it seemed we wouldn’t get the life we planned for ourselves. Then we received a life-changing call: Doug was a candidate for a brand-new cancer treatment called cryosurgery.

Doug was one of the first Albertans to have the experimental procedure that prolonged his life twice. I was so grateful for the gift of more time with my husband. We even toured Alaska in our RV that year.

In all, we shared 18 years and had countless moments together. I’m so thankful our province’s top doctors have access to the latest advances in cancer research and treatment. We’d talked often about how we could turn our gratitude into something meaningful. So we decided to include the Alberta Cancer Foundation in our wills. In gratitude, I’m paying it forward by including the Alberta Cancer Foundation in my will.

Today, it brings me peace to know Doug’s kind heart lives on.

“I’m grateful for every moment of the 18 years Doug and I got to spend together. To every one of our health care providers, we could never thank them enough.”

– Marg Richardson, legacy donor
The Tree of Life Legacy Society

The Tree of Life Legacy Society is a group of incredible people who have made the choice to leave a gift in their will to the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

The name comes from the last burst of energy produced by a radiation machine after years of saving lives, just before it is taken out of service. The final image resembles a beautiful tree, reminding us of the beauty of life, support of community, and the promise of a better future.

When you become a member of our Legacy Society, you are making a statement about what is important to you, and you join a group of special people who believe deeply in ensuring optimal cancer care for future generations.

By leaving a gift in your will, you are making a difference in the lives of future generations of Albertans.
Cancer is a tragic part of our family’s story. My granddaughter died from leukemia when she was just four years old. Two years later, my husband died from prostate cancer. Our entire family has been forever changed.

From the first diagnosis, we did whatever we could to help. And over the years, I have watched the progress that has been made.

In so many areas, the improvements in treatment are so great, and the minds that are working within Alberta’s cancer centres just amaze me.

To help them continue their incredible breakthroughs, I continue to support the Alberta Cancer Foundation’s annual golf tournament, give a monthly donation, and have left a gift in my will. Because anything we can do to end cancer is well worth it.

Donating to the Alberta Cancer Foundation is very important to our family. Losing a granddaughter at the age of four is something you never get over. It is part of our legacy to her to help others.”

— Joan Charbonneau, legacy donor
Who can leave a gift in their will? Isn’t that just for the rich?

Often, donors who leave a legacy to charity in their estate are modest donors in their lifetime — but they’ll make gifts of a lifetime in their wills.

Nearly 1.5 million Canadians have left a gift to charity in their will. It’s a final opportunity to make a lasting gift to a cause you care about.

How can I leave a gift in my will and still provide for my loved ones?

With tax savings in Canada by giving to charity, you absolutely can do both. One way to think about this is to divide up your estate into percentages. For a moment, think of your will like a pie. You can choose to leave a slice to each of your children, another to your grandchildren and another to a cause you care deeply about. We encourage you to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor who understands charitable giving and can show you how you can support your favourite charity while still providing for your family.

Why is this method of giving so important?

A gift in your will to charity is a chance to honour loved ones, promise progress for the future and make a meaningful impact in a way nothing else can. It’s also an opportunity to leave a legacy to the causes that you care about, with assets you cherished in your lifetime.

What if I already have a will? Do I need to re-do it entirely?

You can include the Alberta Cancer Foundation in your will, even if it’s already been written. You can use a codicil to update your will at any time; it’s like adding one more item to your grocery list.

Isn’t it more important to donate now rather than later?

By leaving a gift in your will, you’re essentially doing both!

Many of our donors are on fixed incomes, but they know they will be left with some assets or funds in the bank that they will no longer use once they’ve passed. When they leave a gift in their will, they know they’re planning today for a gift that will be used in the future.

Do I have to let you know about my decision?

You’re under no obligation to share that you’ve left a gift in your will with us. If you do choose to communicate that you’ve included the Alberta Cancer Foundation in your will, it gives us the opportunity to thank you personally for your commitment and welcome you to our Tree of Life Legacy Society. We can then keep you informed of the incredible progress donors are making possible, so you feel even more connected to the cause you care about.
I’m sure you’re as touched as I am by the deeply personal stories of generous Albertans who have included the Alberta Cancer Foundation in their will. That’s the true Alberta spirit of generosity, community and bold innovation that we all take pride in.

Advancing cancer research and treatment is personal for me, too. I was diagnosed with cancer when I was 28. After my treatment at the Cross Cancer Institute, I wanted to make a difference in some way.

I joined an Alberta Cancer Foundation fundraising event with a friend. The joy of giving back and making an impact inspired me to share my cancer journey to raise more funds for the event.

But I wanted to do more. So I’ve made it my career for the last twelve years to inspire Albertans affected by cancer to act. This eventually led me to work with legacy donors — a passionate community planning for a cancer-free future for our children.

Every person who leaves a gift in their will wants to make an impact, and it’s my honour to see those intentions through. It’s exciting when I get the chance to see donor impact in action, like the breakthroughs in immunotherapy taking place in Alberta right now.

If a gift in your will feels like it might be the right choice for you, or if you’d just like more information, please reach out anytime.

Christy Soholt, Director, Legacy Philanthropy
Phone: 780-991-1088 • Toll-free: 1-866-412-4222
Email: christy.soholt@albertacancer.ca
We’d never been prouder of our daughter, Sonja.

In hospital with end-stage sarcoma, Sonja left a bequest to the Alberta Cancer Foundation to help cancer patients who needed financial assistance coping with their disease.

We were struck by the power of Sonja’s gift. She saw an opportunity to lighten someone else’s burden.

That’s why we decided to include the Alberta Cancer Foundation in our wills. We chose to fund research into the cancer that took our daughter’s life.

— Lynne & Keith Crowder, legacy donors