

BACKGROUNDER

About Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF):

- PF is a lung disease that occurs when lung tissue becomes damaged and scarred. This thickened, stiff tissue makes it more difficult for your lungs to work properly.
- PF causes the lungs to lose their ability to transfer oxygen to the bloodstream, resulting in shortness of breath and vital organs being deprived of the necessary oxygen to survive.
- PF is difficult to diagnose; the average patient waits two years for a diagnosis, and many die without a diagnosis
- Access to diagnosis and treatment is challenging for many patients, particularly in Atlantic Canada and remote regions
- During the COVID-19 crisis, patients with the **incurable lung disease**, have endured months of isolation and cancelled treatments.

By the Numbers:

- It is estimated that 14,300 people are affected by IPF annually. This does not include Canadians with other conditions that lead to PF.
- The disease kills more than 3,000 Canadians each year, but remains a little-known disease, despite having survival rates lower than many cancers.
- More Canadians will be diagnosed with PF this year as we learn how to identify and better diagnose the disease

About Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (CPFF):

- The [CPFF](#) is a registered Canadian Charitable Foundation established in 2009 to provide hope and support for people affected by pulmonary fibrosis. Charitable number is 850554858 RR0001
- The organization educates Canadians about the disease, supports patients, families and caregivers and funds research to find treatments and a cure. For more information see CPFF's latest insights report, [Breathless for Change](#).

Hope Breathes Here

- September marks the beginning of Global Pulmonary Fibrosis Month, and the launch of CPFF's Hope Breathes Here initiative.
- CPFF's annual bubble-blowing event, fundraising walks and educational forums will be virtual this year given complications around COVID-19 and the vulnerability of people living with PF. CPFF has created an Event Portal so that all Canadians can connect, learn and participate in CPFF activities.
- Cities across the country, including Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Mississauga, St. John's will light local landmarks in blue and red to mark Pulmonary Fibrosis Month.

More information

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