



Media Advisory and Interview Opportunities

Kamloops Cancer support organizations join together to educate cancer patients and survivors on important support resources available

June 21 event will host panel of experts with demonstrations highlighting Cancer Supportive Care Services available to people living in Kamloops and the greater Thompson-Nicola region

June 7, 2022, Kamloops, B.C. – In recognition of the upcoming National Cancer Wellness Awareness Day and the important need for supportive cancer care services in Kamloops and the surrounding region, the Kamloops Cancer Supportive Care Society (KCSCS) and the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation (RIHF) are bringing together cancer supportive care specialists from [InspireHealth](#) and BC Cancer, Interior to talk about the physical and emotional challenges faced by cancer patients during treatment and the role that supportive care can play in a patient’s cancer experience.

“With one in two people being diagnosed with Cancer, patients and their families need to know that early access to supportive cancer care is available and can help them manage the profound effects of cancer and cancer treatments,” says Leslie Brochu, Chair, KCSCS.

On June 21st, expert panelists will come together to discuss how supportive care can play a vital role for patients and their families faced with a cancer diagnosis in the Kamloops region. This includes addressing the fear, uncertainty and mental health challenges patients face, how the pandemic has impacted patients, the benefits of supportive care during cancer treatment, and what services are available locally.

The event will highlight demonstrations of some of InspireHealth’s services available at no cost to Kamloops patients, and the ways to easily access support that includes:

- Managing the side effects of cancer treatments
- Stress reduction and mental health support, particularly depression and anxiety
- Nutrition support to improve treatment tolerability and address risk factors and challenges
- Using exercise and movement to support recovery
- Improving sleep and reducing fatigue
- Managing challenges specific to cancer during COVID
- Help with decision making and care planning
- Managing work, life, and relationships
- Programming and resources for support people and caregivers

“We are really proud to be collaborating with great community partners to bring these much-needed supportive cancer care services to patients and their families in Kamloops,” said Heidi Coleman, CEO, RIH Foundation.



Loveena Chera, InspireHealth CEO says, “We are here to support the physical and emotional needs of patients in Kamloops at any point in their cancer journey – from diagnosis to treatment and post-treatment, through individual consultations with our care team and group programming that includes yoga, meditation, strength and stretch classes, art therapy, nutrition classes, gratitude, sexual health and self-care workshops, cancer education and more.”

Media are invited to join the June 21st event highlighting Cancer Supportive Care supports available in Kamloops and the greater Thompson-Nicola region. Panellists are also available for interview prior to the event.

When: June 21, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Where: Delta Hotel, Rivers West Room, 540 Victoria Street, Kamloops. Event will also be broadcast **Live via Zoom** for patients, support people, healthcare providers and the community. To register for the in-person or virtual event please visit [here](#).

Agenda:

- **10:30 – 11:15:** Panelist Discussion and Q & A:

Moderator: Peter Olsen, ‘Morning Mayor’, Radio Personality

Panelists:

- Leslie Brochu - Chair, Kamloops Cancer Supportive Care Society
- Heidi Coleman - CEO, Royal Inland Hospital Foundation
- John Larmet - Executive Director, BC Cancer, Kelowna & Prince George
- Dr. Hannah Nette - Director of Clinical Services, InspireHealth Supportive Cancer Care
- Shivraj Pannu - Breast Cancer Survivor, InspireHealth Patient

Topics:

- What are the challenges facing cancer patients in their journey, from diagnosis and treatment to post-treatment? What impact has the pandemic had on the mental health of patients?
 - What are the benefits of supportive cancer care?
 - What supportive cancer care services are currently available to Kamloops residents?
- **11:15 – 12:00:** Supportive Cancer Care Demonstrations

Demonstrations:

- Nutrition During Cancer: Managing Side Effects of Treatment
- Mental Health Support: Stress Reduction through Guided Meditation
- Exercise Therapy: Strength & Stretch
- Mental Health Support: Art Therapy for Creative Coping



- **All panelists available for interview as well as:**
 - Loveena Chera - CEO, InspireHealth Supportive Cancer Care

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About Kamloops Cancer Supportive Care Society (KCSCS):

Recognizing a gap in supportive services for Kamloops and area cancer patients, the Kamloops Cancer Supportive Care Society (KCSCS) developed from a small grass roots group with lived cancer experiences to a registered non-profit society. The KCSCS is advocating for patient navigation and increased cancer supportive care services to help adults affected by cancer receive supportive services to help manage their physical, mental, and emotional health as well as their financial, legal and workplace challenges.

About [Royal Inland Hospital Foundation \(RIHF\)](#):

The RIH Foundation is non-profit charitable organization committed to supporting Royal Inland Hospital and our community's health care needs both now and into the future. Working in collaboration with the Kamloops Cancer Supportive Care Society (KCSCS), we recognize the gap in cancer supportive care services for Kamloops and area cancer patients. We support KCSCS in advocating for increased access to Cancer Supportive Care services to help adults affected by cancer receive supportive services to help manage their physical, mental, and emotional health as well as their financial, legal and workplace challenges.

About [InspireHealth Supportive Cancer Care](#):

InspireHealth provides supportive cancer care to enhance the quality of life of those living with cancer. We focus on a patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual health by providing evidence-informed, person-centered care where the patient plays an active role in their care plan. Our clinical team provides integrative supportive care guided by the patient's values, priorities, and goals. We support patient choice and empowerment and promote self-care through knowledge and skills building. Through collaboration and a shared purpose, we work with other healthcare providers and organizations to identify and fill gaps in a patient's cancer journey and to add value to the health system.