

2004/2005 Report to Volunteers and Donors

Because of your support, Muscular Dystrophy Canada raised \$7.5 million in 2004/2005. We are so very grateful for all you have done to provide hope and opportunity to the over 10,000 people who are touched by Muscular Dystrophy Canada through our education, services and research programs.

Last year Fire Fighters raised over \$2.2 million - an impressive 8% increase over 2004. Chapters continued their strong support raising more than \$955,000. Third Party Events particularly golf tournaments such as Shad's R&R Golf Tournament (ON), the Moose and Goose Dinner (ON), the ICR Charity Golf Classic (SK), the Turnoi de Golf Lallier Repentigny (QC), and the Ike Coffin and Friends Baseball and Golf Tournaments (PEI), were all organized and presented by volunteers to support our mission; more than \$590,000 was received from these and scores of other third party fundraisers throughout the year.

New fundraising approaches such as the "50 Boot Drives in 50 Days" presented by British Columbia Fire Fighters and a new car raffle presented by KIA Motors, their dealers, Fire Fighters and MDC clients in Quebec were just two of many new approaches initiated with great success last year. Your support through gifts of time and funds, "make muscles move."

Your volunteer Board of Directors and staff at Muscular Dystrophy Canada maintained their commitment to provide exemplary stewardship of your gifts. Our Community Services Committee completed an annual review of service effectiveness through a survey of more than 1200 people registered with MDC. In addition to assessing current needs and service quality, respondents helped MDC identify priority issues and concerns of persons with neuromuscular disorders – these findings were used by your Social Action Committee to set goals and establish projects and activities for the year ahead. Guided by your Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee in partnership with the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, MDC ensured that high-impact neuromuscular research was funded.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, we are pleased to report that Muscular Dystrophy Canada's governance process has been effective and productive over the last year in keeping with our mission and by-laws. Our financial and fundraising functions meet the highest standards as prescribed by our auditors and Imagine Canada.

Your participation with us truly "makes muscles move."
Thank you for your confidence. Please contact us at any time with your questions and comments.

Sincerely,



Malcolm Hunter
Chair, Board of Directors
1 866 MUSCLE 8
info@muscle.ca



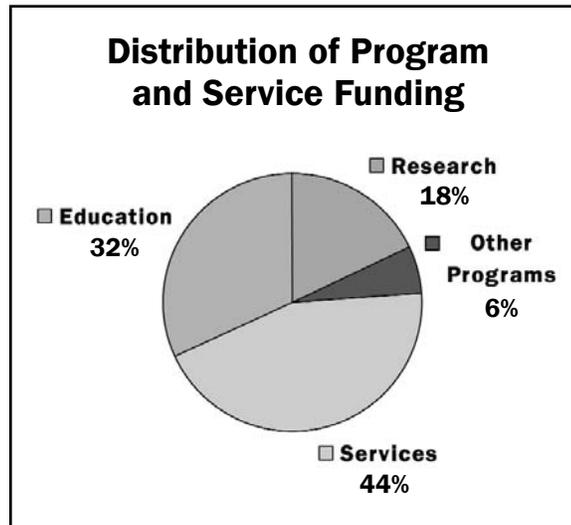
Wyn Chivers
National Executive Director
1-866 MUSCLE 8
info@muscle.ca



How your investment helps “make muscles move.”

“THE WHEELCHAIR HAS ALLOWED US TO GO FOR FAMILY WALKS AND ATTEND FUNCTIONS... THE ELEVATOR AND AUTOMATED DOORS FROM MDC ALLOW COLE TO ACCESS OUR HOME INDEPENDENTLY, WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL!”

- Vicki Belland,
Cole's mom



“WITHOUT THIS EQUIPMENT, I COULD NOT FUNCTION. I CANNOT IMAGINE LIVING WITHOUT IT. I COULD NOT BE INDEPENDENT!”

- René Landriault



The following highlights the work we have accomplished together over the last year to fulfill Muscular Dystrophy Canada's mission:

SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENCE OF CANADIANS WITH NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS

- Offered information and support services to 10,000 people registered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada
- Completed a survey of more than 1,200 persons registered with MDC regarding their satisfaction with our Services program and to determine their high-priority future needs. This regular review assesses MDC's actual service delivery against our Committee's standards, plans and budgeted resources.
- Provided equipment for persons requesting assistance, committing more than \$900,000 for purchases. A total of 813 persons received services from MDC during the year.
- Initiated new Peer Support groups across the country.

FUNDING RESEARCH THAT IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF PEOPLE WITH NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS

- Leveraged research on neuromuscular disorders through funding partnerships with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society (ALS) which resulted in \$2.7 million in total funding last year. Through this funding partnership, \$15 million has been invested in neuromuscular research since 2000.
- Committed financial support to an international Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy Conference to be held in Quebec City in October of 2005; myotonic muscular dystrophy is the most common of adult-onset neuromuscular disorders.
- In partnership with the CIHR Institute of Genetics, \$135,000 was allocated for a Post Doctoral Fellowship to be conducted in the laboratory of one of our funded researchers.
- Established a new partnership with the Stem Cell Network to fund a New Investigator Grant of \$100,000 over the next 2 years.

COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

- Continued the implementation of the "In Synchrony" project, generating discussion with government about the need for policies and funding based on a "progressive disability lens" so that support programs for people with progressive disabilities will become more responsive.
- Developed a self-advocacy tool for persons wishing to effect policy change in their communities. The manual includes materials and ideas to assist persons analyze and plan advocacy strategies, sample materials and provincial contact lists.
- Hosted the first, national FSHD (Fascioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy) conference for persons affected and their families; more than 90 delegates attended.
- Muscular Dystrophy Canada, and other health charities strongly encouraged the Government of Canada to increase financial support for medical research in the Fall 2004 Federal Budget.