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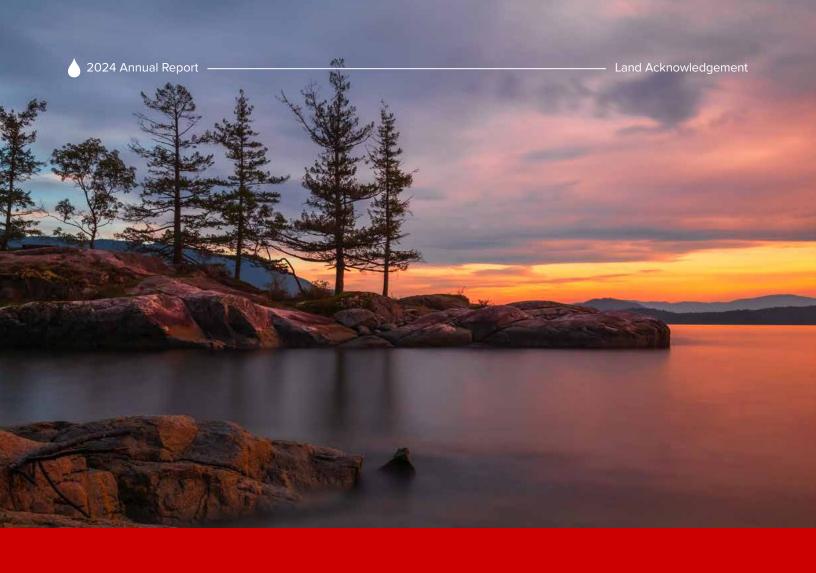
**ANNUAL REPORT** 



LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY OF CANADA°

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# Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada (LLSC) acknowledges that we operate on the traditional territories of many Indigenous nations. We honour Indigenous Peoples' ongoing care and connection to these lands, which have been maintained since time immemorial, and we express our gratitude for the opportunity to live, work and learn on this land.

We are committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging and advancing health equity in all aspects of our work, while supporting reconciliation and respect for Indigenous communities.



## From our President

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense gratitude for the dedication, generosity and resilience of our community. This year has reminded me that progress doesn't come from one breakthrough or one person. It comes from many small acts of generosity, determination, and care—day after day.

To our donors—your generosity fuels life-saving research, provides critical support to Canadians, and brings us closer to a world without blood cancer. To our researchers—your relentless pursuit of knowledge and breakthroughs is transforming the future of treatment and care. To our volunteers and staff—your unwavering commitment and compassion ensure that no one faces blood cancer alone. Each of you is an essential part of this mission, and we could not do this without you.

We recognize that this has been a challenging time for the nonprofit sector. Economic uncertainty, shifting donor priorities, and an evolving healthcare landscape have made our work more complex. Yet, in the face of these challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing research, advocacy and patient support. Because of you, we have been able to continue funding innovative projects, expanding our outreach programs, and advocating for better access to care.

Hope is not just a word—it's something we experience every day in labs, in hospital rooms, and in the voices of people who tell us, "You helped me through." Advances in immunotherapy, targeted treatments, and stem cell research are not distant dreams—they're changing lives right now.

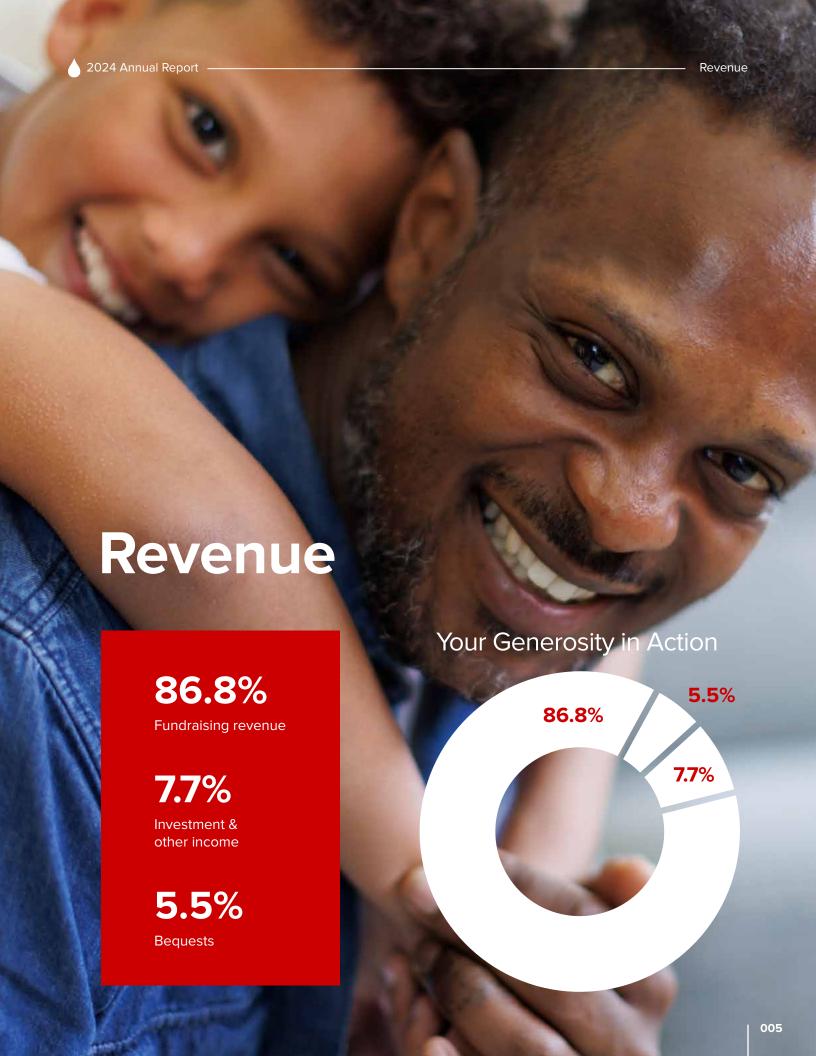
Together, we will see the day where no one has to hear the words, "You have blood cancer."

Thank you for standing with us.

**Alicia Talarico** 

President & CEO

Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada



27%

rallying supporters through fundraising events

20%

strengthening operations to match community needs





4,396

#### moments of connection:

Each call and email answered was a lifeline—offering hope, guidance, and support when it was needed most.

407

individuals found strength in community: Through our virtual support groups, hundreds shared, listened, and built resilience together.

794

#### journeys made possible:

We helped nearly 800 people travel to receive the life-saving treatment they needed, easing the financial burden along the way.

407

#### meaningful peer connections:

We matched individuals facing blood cancer with someone who's been there, creating bonds that offer comfort and understanding.

22,072

#### people united in support:

Thousands have connected with us—patients, caregivers, supporters—all coming together to face blood cancer with courage and compassion.

My First Connection volunteer helped me beyond what I was expecting. She was so caring and open and honest, and it really put me much more at ease. I am eternally grateful for this program.

Service User, First Connection
 Peer Support Program

# **Educating**our Community

## 7,611

individuals empowered through knowledge: Every person who joined our educational events took a step toward understanding, advocating, and making informed decisions for themselves or a loved one facing blood cancer.

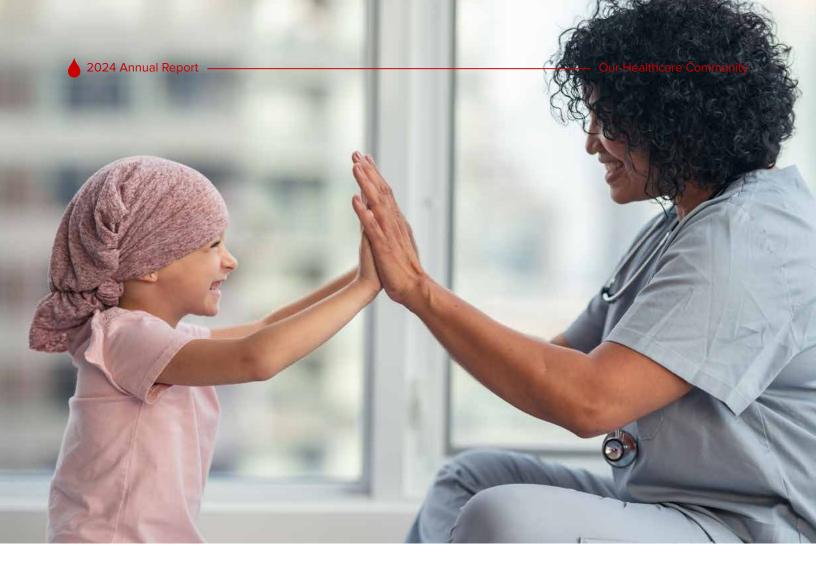
### 64

new resources crafted with care: From practical guides to expert insights, we created or refreshed tools to ensure the blood cancer community has the right information at the right time—because knowledge is power.

## 2,025

people came together for one powerful conversation:
Our webcast, "How gut health can improve treatment and quality of life," united thousands eager to learn how small changes can make a big difference in the cancer experience





## Our Healthcare Community

Through your invaluable support, we stand alongside healthcare providers across Canada, offering timely, relevant resources that complement their expertise and help meet the evolving needs of the blood cancer community.

In 2024, the need for up-to-date information and ongoing professional learning remains more important than ever. Our education programs and practical tools are designed in close consultation with the medical community to ensure they are useful, accessible, and grounded in their reality.

By working together, we ensure that those on the frontlines of care have the support they need to navigate complexity with clarity, confidence, and empathy.

### **327**

healthcare professionals participated in 37 presentations about our services across the country, strengthening the care they provide to individuals and families affected by blood cancers.

## 1,816

healthcare professionals engaged in virtual learning: From coast to coast, providers tapped into our expert-led sessions—building skills, sharing insights, and staying current to deliver the best possible care.

## 1,000

Over 1,000 healthcare professionals used our continuing education platform that prioritizes inclusive care, ensuring individuals feel seen and heard.

## Supporting Healthcare Providers



## Our Research Community

Your support has been vital in advancing blood cancer research in Canada—helping foster collaboration and providing researchers with the tools they need to explore promising new directions.

In 2024, progress in areas like targeted therapies is contributing to more personalized approaches to care, offering those with blood cancer more options and renewed hope for the future.



"As the chair of the LLSC Medical
& Scientific committee and a blood
cancer researcher, I see firsthand
the impact of your support.
LLSC is leading the blood cancer
research agenda in Canada,
working relentlessly every day to
advance our mission, to continue
the momentum of our investment
in all blood cancers and to foster
innovation, with the goal of
improving the outcomes and quality
of life of adults, youth and children
affected by blood cancers."

Dr. Jason Berman

## **Research** and Grants

\$5,121,485

invested in the work of 66 blood cancer researchers across Canada including:

\$1,396,418

**invested in discovery:** Through operating grants, we're fueling innovative research across Canada that seeks to unlock new approaches to diagnosing, treating, and understanding blood cancers.

\$496,034

invested in smart technologies:

We're supporting passionate researchers who are using artificial intelligence and machine learning to make life changing discoveries that bring hope to affected families even faster.

\$557,413

committed to brighter futures for children:

Pediatric blood cancer research funding is helping develop safer, more effective treatments tailored to the unique needs of young patients. **\$574,462** 

focused on life beyond the diagnosis: We're supporting quality of life research to better understand and improve the emotional, physical, and social wellbeing

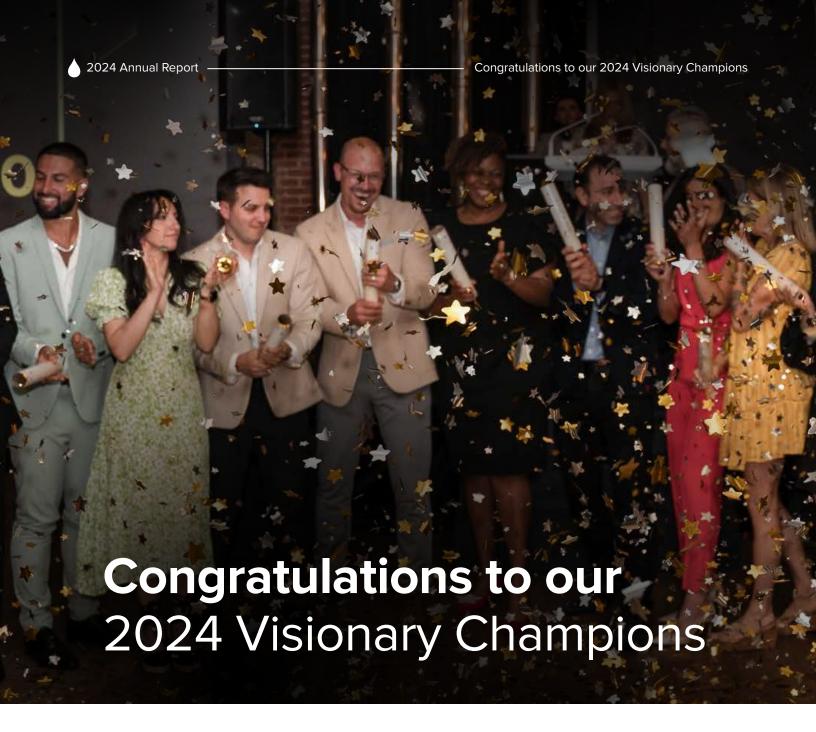
motional, physical, and social wellbeing of people living with blood cancer. Being a community partner on the grant review panel provided an opportunity to share my lived experience and to influence where research dollars are allocated. I could directly advocate for research to fill the gap to improve the quality of life of Canadians impacted by a blood cancer.

Nadine Frisk, Community Partner Reviewer, Quality of Life Grant Review Panel, 2024



# Your Dedication Inspires

Your continued generosity in 2024 has been a beacon of inspiration and hope for the blood cancer community in Canada, and for all of us at LLSC. By contributing to this mission, you have helped bolster life-saving research breakthroughs and innovation, and vital support services for the community. Thank you for standing alongside those bravely facing blood cancer, reminding them that they are never alone.



This exceptional group of business and community leaders has redefined philanthropy, each raising over \$50,000 in the Visionaries of the Year competition.

Over an intense ten-week campaign, these changemakers have harnessed their passion, innovation, expertise and competitive spirit in the pursuit of blood cancer cures. Their dedication has not only earned them distinguished titles but has also set a new standard for impact-driven giving—where ambition fuels progress, and generosity drives change.

We extend our deepest appreciation to these remarkable Visionaries. Your commitment, leadership and generosity have ignited a movement that stretches far beyond today, inspiring a legacy of hope for tomorrow and illuminating the path toward a future free from blood cancer.





\$390,382

**Jennifer King** *Together We Can*Toronto



\$133,659

John MacEachern
Purple Warriors
Halifax



\$115,695

Pamela Sfeir Team Pamela Sfeir Montreal



\$78,781

Stefan Pike Team Pike Halifax



\$63,197

Domenico D'Amato Dom's, Tony's & Co. Montreal



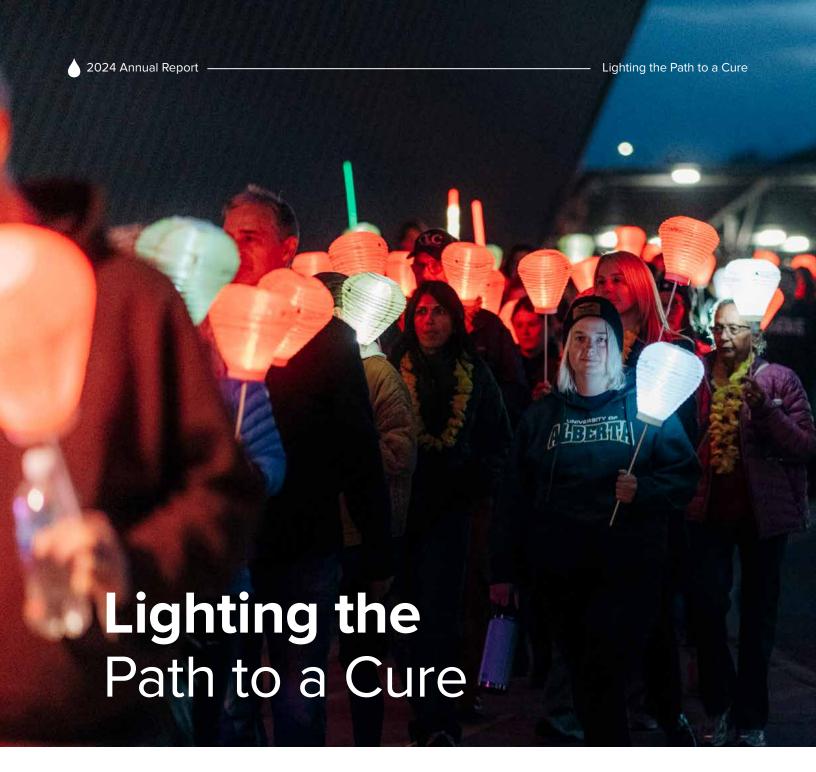
\$55,408

**Ashley Camp**Ashley's Champs
Vancouver



\$51,569

Alison Wheeler Team 24 Toronto



In 2024, we were blown away by your enthusiasm for Light The Night. Every single person – from the 5,000+ participants who attended a walk, to those who fundraised with passion – has been part of a collective movement that raised over \$6 million for the blood cancer community. What a remarkable and heartfelt accomplishment!

Every lantern lifted, every step taken and every dollar raised acts as a reminder that no one facing a blood cancer is alone and brings us closer to a world without blood cancers.

# Celebrating Light The Night Top Teams and Individuals

**HALIFAX** 

\$321,713

**Steele Auto Group** 

\$73,346

**Pomerleau** 

\$100,325

Frank & Linda Bragg

**TORONTO** 

**VANCOUVER** 

ST. JOHN'S

\$251,460

The Beer Store

\$23,393

Sam Pisani

\$115,945

United Food and Commercial Workers

(UFCW)

\$111,870

The Spotzl Family (#Rachel Strong)

\$79,616

**Steele Auto Group** 

\$57,544

Jo Mark Zurel

**MONTREAL** 

**OTTAWA** 

LONDON

\$77,862

L'industrie de la construction pour la cause

\$42,615

**Cristina Carlone** 

**\$**54,033

Team Inflector - Matthew Rinfret

\$18,728

**Craig Peleshok** 

\$23,638

**Team Tammi** 

\$21,447

**Tammi Garrett** 

#### **CALGARY**

### **WINNIPEG**

#### **EDMONTON**

\$30,000

iA Financial Group

\$12,256

**Matthew Kramer** 

\$28,208

In Memory of Marcia Maric

\$7,754

**Tanya and Peri Maric** 

\$25,177

Carter's

\$9,210

**Glenda Sartore** 

#### **SASKATOON**

#### **REGINA**

### **KINGSTON**

\$19,915

**Super Store** 

\$4,924

Mickayla Jones

\$7,264

**Light The Night Regina** 

\$2,805

**Ed Medl** 

\$3,689

**Raposo Strong** 

\$1,709

Marla Mackler

#### **CELEBRATING OUR NATIONAL TEAMS**

\$440,000

The Jim Abernethy Challenge

\$401,329

**Steele Auto Group** 

\$221,033

**UFCW/TUAC** 

\$198,447

**Loblaws Super Team** 

\$137,966

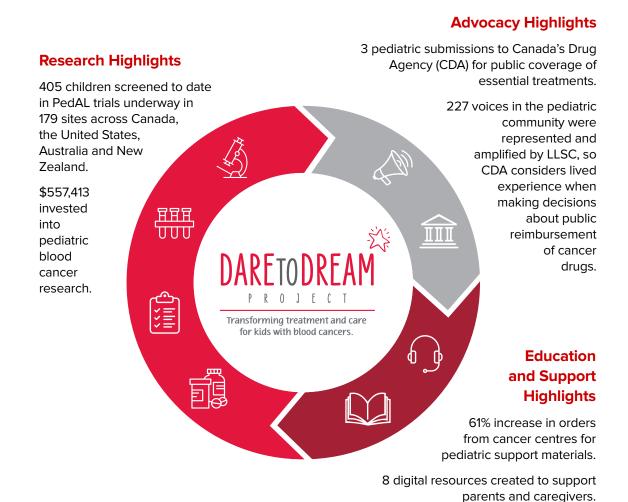
**Acier AGF/AGF Rebar** 

## **Dare** to Dream

Imagine a world where children with blood cancer have safer, less toxic treatments. Where more children get better and fewer experience harsh, chronic side effects in and after remission. LLSC recognizes that children are different from adults and their blood cancer needs are different too.

We Dare to Dream boldly of a future where children not only survive cancer but thrive.

That's why LLSC proudly partnered with the Dare to Dream project—a global initiative unlike any other, working to transform the landscape of pediatric cancer research, treatment, and care through research, education, and advocacy.



# Celebrating our Outstanding Dare to Dream Partners

A heartfelt thank you to our trailblazing partners of the Dare to Dream project, whose compassion and invaluable support is impacting the youngest lives in the blood cancer community:

Dale & Dare Lutz — The Lutz Family

**John Leroux** 

**CIBC** Foundation

**Imagine a Cure Foundation** 

**Ron Segal & Nara Abrams** 

In loving memory of Bo Kindree

**Holly Miao & Brad Brain** 

Million Dollar Round Table - MDRT

**Mortgage Connection Calgary** 

**Sealand Building Group** 

**Kindred Foundation** 

John Wright & Karen Wong



We Are Here for You



## We Are Here for You

No one should navigate a blood cancer diagnosis alone, and thanks to you, no one has to.

Because of your generosity, people facing blood cancer know they are not alone—they are part of a compassionate community that empowers and supports them every step of the way. Whether it's navigating care decisions, exploring clinical trial options, finding emotional support, or connecting with others who understand, our community is here to help.

Personalized support is available at 1-833-222-4884 through a Community Services Lead. For more information, please visit our <u>one-on-one personalized support page</u> or go to bloodcancers.ca/access-support..

