

What is the Cancerandwork.ca website and why is it important?

Key messages for media release

- 1- Cancerandwork.ca is a comprehensive Canadian website about cancer and work (staying, returning or leaving) and its impact on everyone (survivors, healthcare providers, employers, etc.) involved in the return to work (RTW) process of people affected by cancer.
- 2- Our website features an extensive amount of resources on cancer and RTW along with links to global sites and organizations that aid survivors in the RTW process following cancer.
- 3- Cancerandwork.ca makes it easier for survivors and all other parties to find content and resources on RTW in one place.
- 4- The Cancerandwork.ca team have developed online tools for survivors to complete self-assessments on many aspects of their conditions to help them in the development of RTW plans. The team has also developed job analysis tools giving survivors, healthcare providers and employers a starting point for conversations to plan a timely, successful and safe return to work.
- 5- The Cancerandwork.ca website helps to enhance communication among everyone involved in the return to work process. The information is customized to 3 groups: cancer patients/survivors, healthcare providers, and employers. The information and resources provided to each group are also reflected in the content for the other groups. This way, all groups will be using the same language, addressing the same work-related issues, and understanding the RTW process as well as their specific roles.
- 6- The website fills the need for a deeper understanding among everyone involved in the RTW process about the roadblocks that survivors face, their rights, and the responsibilities of healthcare providers and employers to facilitate and plan a successful RTW strategy.
- 7- Cancerandwork.ca addresses the legal practices and policies that survivors and healthcare providers need to know to facilitate RTW conversations with insurance companies and employers.
- 8- The website was designed to address the unique needs of Canadian cancer survivors. Its design provides information on resources that exist across Canada and also within specific provinces and territories to support cancer survivors to stay at or return to work.

- 9- The website provides specific resources and tools for every stage survivors may be going through: planning to stay at work, returning to work, changing work or finding work.

Who we are:

- 10- Core team: Dr. Christine Maheu (McGill University) and Ms. Maureen Parkinson (BC Cancer Agency), in partnership with de Souza Institute (Dr. Mary Jane Esplen, director) have worked with other core team members to build the Cancerandwork.ca interactive website and brought together numerous experts and survivors from across Canada to co-create resources for Canadian cancer survivors, healthcare providers and employers. The website was made possible with funds from Health Canada through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.
- 11- Expert writers: Cancerandwork.ca includes content by specialists who have shared their expertise in RTW and cancer. Such experts include vocational rehabilitation counsellors, occupational therapists, lawyers, RTW coordinators/disability managers, physiotherapists, kinesiologists, neuro-psychologists, psychologists, nurses, dietitians, lymphedema specialists, union representatives, insurance representatives, and cancer survivors. Health professionals in oncology have provided an in-depth review of the most common symptoms and treatments that impact survivors at work. The experts have also provided symptom management options and ideas to facilitate job accommodations.
- 12- Advisory group members: Over 40 advisory group members representing cancer survivors, healthcare providers and employers with different types of expertise in the RTW process and cancer informed the development and content of the website.
- 13- National collaborators: Cancerandwork.ca has had its information promoted and advised by national collaborators to support everyone involved in RTW for cancer survivors and include McGill University, the BC Cancer Agency, de Souza Institute, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network, the National Institute of Disability Management and Research, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, CancerCare Manitoba, CancerControl Alberta, Cancer Care Ontario, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, University of Toronto, Ryerson University, York University, and University Health Network.