

voices of change

August 9, 2010

Meet Val!

Valmore Leblanc is an avid volunteer from the Maritimes now living in Langley who is passionate about improving our healthcare system. Val is involved in numerous community initiatives and chairs the Fraser Valley Support Group of the Friendly Amputees Coalition of Canada [<http://www.amputeecoalitioncanada.org>]. Val sits on our Patient Voices Network (PVN) Steering Committee and visited our Vancouver offices recently for a tour of the new Patient Resource Centre and training area which will host our upcoming workshops for patients and peer coaches, and agreed to a short, taped interview... here are a few snippets:



Valmore Leblanc
*Patient Voices Network
Steering Committee*

Impact BC: Val, thanks for agreeing to be interviewed for our upcoming newsletter. Given all your commitments and community work, why did you join the Patient Voices Network?

Val: What motivated me to become involved in Patient Voices was that I would be able to have an opportunity to work on change... and we need change. We have not had major change in healthcare since Medicare started in Canada over 50 years ago, and something has got to be done. That's why we're here.

Impact BC: What makes this program unique?

Val: I think the fact that patients are involved is very important.

Impact BC: If you could change one thing in healthcare today, what would it be?

Val: If I could change one thing... the people in control would open up and listen more. So far, the people at the top have made the decisions and the patients have to live with it. Gradually the pyramid is turning, and it should... because everyone is out there for the patient. I think Patient Voices is the way, and has the potential to help achieve some real changes in our healthcare system.

We will be posting this and other patient interviews on the PVN website in the future. If you are interested in being interviewed, e-mail Graeme at gdrew@impactbc.ca.

**If you want to go fast go alone...
if you want to go far go together.**

~ African Proverb

Article on "Changes" features PVN members

Congratulations to three PVN patients (Brian, Jim, and Terri) who were featured recently in the Summer 2010 issue of Transition Magazine [<http://bccpd.bc.ca/publications/transition.htm>] published by the BC Coalition of People with Disabilities [<http://bccpd.bc.ca/>]. The article titled *Powerful Responses to Change* quotes Terri, after being diagnosed with a chronic heart condition: "Once I started helping others, I started finding a lot of the answers I was looking for".

Thanks!

Special thanks to Jamie, Johanna, Sandi, and Val for their attendance and feedback at recent meetings to discuss our website and the program in general.

Patient invite

Dr. Mary Bryson with the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia is inviting participants for a community research project called "Queer Women and Experiences of Healthcare". If you are interested in participating, contact Dr. Bryson directly at mary.bryson@ubc.ca.



Just for fun

Take a seven minute movie break and buckle up for a light-hearted satire. [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J67xJKpB6c>]

Upcoming training

September 25-26 are the dates for our next Patient Voices Training Session (at Impact BC offices) – visit the PVN website for more details, and registration. [<http://www.patientvoices.ca/events/2010-09-25/vancouver-patient-voices-training-session>]





Resources

Thanks to our PVN members Cathryn and Johanna for sharing these resources:

- All Heart Matters: an on-line forum for the more than one million heart patients who experience heart surgery annually.
[\[http://www.allheartmatters.com\]](http://www.allheartmatters.com)
- Health Care: How to be an Advocate for Yourself and Others – a course being offered by Simon Fraser University this fall
[\[http://www.sfu.ca/seniors/scfc571.htm\]](http://www.sfu.ca/seniors/scfc571.htm)

Be sure to visit the expanding Resources section of the PVN website for useful links to organizations, initiatives, and documents [\[http://www.patientvoices.ca/resources\]](http://www.patientvoices.ca/resources). And stay tuned for the Grand Opening of our Patients Resource Room here at our Impact BC offices in Vancouver.

Breaking News

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) just released a major paper - *Health Care Transformation in Canada: Change that Works. Care that Lasts.* – that is sure to raise the topic of our national healthcare system to the forefront of public debate. Of most relevance to PVN, the paper refers to building a culture of patient-centred care.

According to the CBC, the report aims to broaden the vision for health care to improving the health of the population, improving patient experiences and improving value for money spent on health care.

[\[http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/08/03/cma-health-care.html\]](http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2010/08/03/cma-health-care.html)

Read the full story on the CMA website.

[\[http://www.cma.ca/cma-paper-hct\]](http://www.cma.ca/cma-paper-hct)

Job Opportunity with PVN

Impact BC is currently hiring a dynamic Northern Health Liaison for Patient Voices Network. The Northern Health Liaison's main focus is to develop and support the Patient Voices Network in the northern part of the province, primarily through Northern Health Authority's initiatives.

For a complete job description, visit our website. Closing date for applications is Monday, August 16th, 4pm.

[\[http://www.patientvoices.ca/who-we-are/job-opportunities\]](http://www.patientvoices.ca/who-we-are/job-opportunities)

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