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BC Epilepsy Society
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BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY STATEMENT

The BC Epilepsy Society is proud of the government of Saskatchewan for funding the first Epilepsy Monitoring Unit in Saskatchewan

The BC Epilepsy Society – a provincially incorporated non-profit and a federally incorporated charitable organization that supports the over 40,000 people living with epilepsy in BC and seeks to raise the awareness of epilepsy around the world – is proud of the government of Saskatchewan for funding the first Epilepsy Monitoring Unit in Saskatchewan.

With its four dedicated telemetry beds, the forthcoming Epilepsy Monitoring Unit at Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital will serve the over 10,000 people living with epilepsy in Saskatchewan. The government of Saskatchewan will put forward \$1.3 million for the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, with the Royal University Hospital Foundation planning to raise an additional \$1.2 million.

News of this story was announced on August 19th, 2019 and August 20th, 2019, with three articles on the subject appearing on Google Alerts for epilepsy on August 20th, 2019. Through Google Alerts, this information is able to go beyond the borders of Saskatchewan and Canada and is thus being shared with the international epilepsy community.

Jim Reiter, the Saskatchewan Minister of Health has stated that “[the Saskatchewan government] is committed to improving access to high-quality health care services for people with epilepsy [in Saskatchewan].”

Arla Gustafson, the CEO of the Royal University Hospital Foundation, added that “For people living with epilepsy, this is life-changing” as the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit will be able to “improve [the] ability [of the Royal University Hospital] to assess and determine if patients are candidates for surgery.”

Dr. Jose Tellez, who has been lobbying for an Epilepsy Monitoring Unit in Saskatchewan for over a decade, was quoted as saying that this is “a historical day for patients with epilepsy in the province.”

The Epilepsy Monitoring Unit is aimed to be opened sometime in the 2020-21 year. With the generous help of the provincial government of Saskatchewan and the Royal University Hospital Foundation, the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit will make a huge difference in the lives of the over 10,000 people living with epilepsy in Saskatchewan.

Kim Davidson, Executive Director of the BC Epilepsy Society stated that “We are very proud of the government of Saskatchewan for taking such a vested interest in the lives of the people living with epilepsy in their province. We hope that the government in BC will see what Saskatchewan has done and follow suit with the health care needs of the people living with epilepsy in BC.”

Kim Davidson, on behalf of the BC Epilepsy Society, has reached out to BC Premier John Horgan and BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix to discuss this matter but has not heard back as of yet and hopes to have conversations with both of them about how to improve the lives of the people living with epilepsy in BC.

For more information on the BC Epilepsy Society, please visit www.bcepilepsy.com. If you would like to learn more about epilepsy, get more information about the programs and services that we offer or receive support for yourself or a loved one living with epilepsy, please contact the BC Epilepsy Society via telephone at 604-875-6704 or via email at info@bcepilepsy.com.