

Racing in the fight against cancer

Federal government employee and cancer survivor recruits friends and colleagues to run in a relay to support cancer research

By Angela Battiston

Sept. 7, 2006 – Vancouver, B.C. – The Canadian Cancer Society’s “Relay for Life” is a 12-hour marathon that requires that at least one team member be running at all times, making it a challenge to complete. But for Marty Frizzel’s teammates, the most inspiring moment comes at the beginning of the race, when Mr. Frizzel takes to the field.

That’s because the first leg of the course is dedicated to cancer survivors.

Mr. Frizzel, an employee in the Vancouver office of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), is team captain of the CIC Flyers. For the past four years, he has recruited friends and colleagues to help support the fight against cancer. Since 2003, the CIC Flyers have raised over \$15,000 for cancer research.

“I was diagnosed with cancer within a few weeks after my arrival at CIC. Although I didn’t know some of my colleagues very well, they often spoke to me or visited me. They provided me with exceptional care when I needed it, and I really had the sense that they cared. For me, volunteering is about giving back. That’s why I have solicited all of my colleagues to participate in a great fundraising event.”

The relay features teams of eight to 12 people who raise funds prior to the event and then set up tents, provide food and cheer each other on during the race.

Mr. Frizzel is one example of Government of Canada employees making a difference in their communities. Along with their regular volunteering, thousands of public servants participate in the annual Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC), the largest workplace charitable project in Canada. In 2005, federal public servants contributed more than \$29.5 million to GCWCC in 113 communities nation-wide. GCWCC 2006 kicks off on September 7 and will run until November 22.

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