



August 31, 2016

Hundreds gear up to walk three days ... 100k's

Only event of its kind in the world kicks off **Friday, September 9, 2016**

300 doctors, nurses, kidney patients, family and friends will hit the road for three days and 100k's starting **Friday, September 9 for Kidney March 2016**. The only event of its kind in the world raises funds and awareness for life-changing research and support programs for people with kidney disease.

"We created the Kidney March seven years ago in 2010 as a transformational event designed to put the fight against kidney disease on Canada's radar" says **Joyce Van Deurzen, Executive Director, The Kidney Foundation of Canada (Southern Alberta & Saskatchewan)**. So far, Kidney March has raised more than \$4 million for lifesaving research, patient supports, and advocacy for organ donations.

"We joined Kidney March the very first year and Kidney Marchers have become like family," says **Stuart Duff, a Calgarian who donated his kidney to his wife Cheryl this June**. "My husband truly is my perfect match," says **Cheryl Duff**. "After 24 years of struggling with kidney disease, I am getting back my life with my new kidney 'Linus' onboard. Kidney disease affects your whole life, and your whole family too."

Why kidney disease? Kidney disease afflicts one in 10 Canadians. That means 3.5 million Canadians cope with and die from this chronic illness. People with chronic kidney disease (CKD) are often forced to quit work because of specialists' appointments, dialysis, transplant treatments, and persistent physical and emotional side effects. There is, at present, no cure.

Why organ donation? 75% of the 4,433 Canadians on the wait list for an organ transplant are waiting for a kidney. The Kidney Foundation of Canada encourages people with CKD to talk with family and friends about organ donation, and advocates to improve health and donation systems to increase organ donations in Canada.

Kidney March 2016 kicks off **Friday, September 9 at 7 am at the Millarville racetrack**, 306097 192 Street, Millarville, Alberta, and ends on **Sunday, September 11 at 2:30 pm at Canada Olympic Park**, corner of Canada Olympic Drive S.W. and Canada Olympic Road S.W. (Festival Tent).

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