



September 8, 2019

Kidney March: September 6 − 8, 2019 • 3 days − 100 kilometres − K-Country to Calgary

## Kidney March sweeps into Calgary from K-Country celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary surpassing their million-dollar goal.

Over 600 kidney marchers and crew wrapped up their 100 kilometre, three-day march from Millarville through K-Country to Calgary arriving today at Canada Olympic Park (COP). Marchers are drawn together because their lives have been impacted by kidney disease. Patients, loved ones, doctors, nurses and scientists all participate together side by side, connecting the community and building bonds that go far beyond the event itself. Kidney March is the only event of its kind on Earth and only held in Calgary. Participants have traveled to march for this cause from across Canada and internationally.

Marchers and Crew are descending the hill into the Markin MacPhail Centre this Sunday at 3 pm, accompanied by a parade of all 600+ participants lead by an RCMP and CPS officer and 6 rodeo flag horses completing their epic 100 km journey downhill into a cheering crowd of family and friends.

No other walk in the world goes this far, for this long, for this cause, raising awareness and funds for kidney disease prevention, lifesaving research, patient programs and organ donation initiatives.

This year's goal was \$1,000,000. To date, Kidney March 2019 has exceeded that goal by almost half of last year's total, raising just over **\$1.4 Million** (and still counting). "We are thrilled to have incredible support from our community. It is truly inspiring," says Joyce Van Deurzen, Executive Director of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Southern Alberta. "Kidney March asks Marchers and Crew to do the most they can do for kidney disease and organ donation, and they certainly have. Calgary is an absolute worldwide centre of excellence on kidney research so this money makes a huge difference, it's going to change lives, there's no question about that," said Van Deurzen.

Media are invited to the Kidney March Closing Ceremony Saturday September 8<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm. At Canada Olympic Park's Markin MacPhail Centre 151 Canada Olympic Rd SW, Calgary AB.

Marchers are crossing the finish line between 1 pm and 2:30 pm at the top of COP hill. Their triumphant walk down the hill begins just before 3:00 pm, with the formal Closing Ceremonies at 3:15 pm.

Visit <u>kidneymarch.ca</u> to be inspired. On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:@KidneyMarch Click <u>here</u> to enjoy our 30 second video.

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