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Our history

How the Canadian Cancer Society began

The Canadian Cancer Society was formed in 1938 with the mandate to spread important information about the early warning signs of cancer to the Canadian public.

The seeds of the Canadian Cancer Society were planted in 1929 when the Saskatchewan Medical Association formed the country's first cancer committee. This committee was responding to growing concern by doctors that people were not aware of the signs of cancer. By the time people consulted a doctor, their cancer was advanced and their chances for survival were decreased. Cancer committees in other Provincial Medical Associations followed, and in 1931 the Canadian Medical Association's National Study Committee on Cancer was formed.

In 1935, the Governor General of Canada invited Canadians to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the coronation of George V by donating to the King George V Silver Jubilee Cancer Fund. The campaign successfully raised almost \$500,000 by the end of the year. In 1937, the National Study Committee recommended the formation of the Canadian Society for the Control of Cancer and this new organization was officially launched the following year. (We changed our name to the Canadian Cancer Society a few years later.) During our early years we received most of our income from an annual grant from the Canadian Medical Association based on the interest of the King George V Silver Jubilee Fund.

In 1947, the [National Cancer Institute of Canada](#) (our research partner) was formed through an agreement between the Canadian Cancer Society and the Federal Department of Health and Welfare. Since then, the two organizations have worked towards a common goal while, at the same time, retaining their own identities and purposes.

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QUESTIONS
ABOUT CANCER?

Ask us

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