

On **World Cancer Day**, the **National Council of Women of Canada** stands in solidarity with everyone whose life has been touched by cancer. This disease does not discriminate: an estimated 2 in 5 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, and its impact is felt in every community, across every gender, age, and identity.

Aligned with the 2025–2027 World Cancer Day theme, "United by Unique", we honour the unique stories of women, girls, and all people living with, beyond, or grieving cancer—stories of strength, fear, resilience, love, and hope.

Our commitment to improving the lives of women, girls, families and the broader community stretches back across the 133 years of our existence as an organization... reflecting an approach to that is itself personal. I am not alone in believing that each person deserves timely, compassionate, and accessible care that reflects their unique needs and circumstances.

As long-standing advocates for gender equality and improved living conditions, the NCWC acknowledges the importance of a truly people-centred approach to cancer care in Canada. Ultimately this means investing in prevention by protecting our air and water, ensuring safe housing and adequate income, and expanding culturally safe services and supports. These essential conditions help prevent illness, improve health outcomes, and ease the disproportionate burdens experienced by women and girls—particularly those affected by poverty, racism, or the challenges of rural and remote living.

Today, we remember those we have lost, support those who are living with cancer, and stand beside families, health workers, advocates, and researchers. The NCWC will continue to raise its voice for policies that put people before profit, dignity before delay, and justice at the heart of health.

United by our unique stories, we can build a future in which fewer Canadians hear the words "you have cancer," and everyone who does is met with the care, respect, and support they both need and deserve.

Penny Rankin
NCWC President