

Manitoba Prostate Cancer Support Group – Celebrating 30 years of service 1992 - 2022.

Submitted by:

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The Manitoba Prostate Cancer Support Group is marking 30 years of service to the community this year. We were one of the first PCa support groups formed in Canada way back in 1992 and are proud of the works we have accomplished in the past 30 years.

A support group will only be formed if an individual, or a small group, decide there is a “need” in the community. In our case, the “need” was to help men understand and learn more about a prostate cancer diagnosis and how that could affect their day-to-day activities. In 1992, a group of men, led by Norm Oman, met with Urologist, Henry Krahn and the decision to create a PCa support group was “hatched”. It took some planning and organization but in October 1992, they held their first public meeting.

Now you must put this all in perspective! Back in 1992 you couldn’t punch in “Dr. Google” on your personal computer to find prostate cancer information. Windows 95 never came into till 3 years later! There was little printed material for newly diagnosed men. So yes, there definitely was a “need” for a Support Group.

Interesting notes over 30 years:

- 1993 – first newsletter published. Today 1300 copies are distributed monthly.
- 1997 – first annual September Prostate Cancer Awareness Evening.
- 2001 – launch of our website (www.manpros.org).
- 2004 – Name changed to Manitoba Prostate Cancer Support Group.
- 2013 – Current logo came into use.
- 2020 – 2022 – “in person” meetings cancelled due to covid regulations.

Over the 30 years, the committed MPCSG Board members did not “sit still”. Alliances were formed with the Canadian Cancer Society, Prostate Cancer Canada, CancerCare Manitoba, Ride For Dad, Pharmaceutical companies and other organizations. Connections were formed with medical professionals who readily volunteered their time to speak at our meetings. Binders of information were produced, then given to Urologists to give to patients. Board members made numerous presentations to groups as well as attend health fairs to promote our services.

After a two year hiatus from monthly meetings, over 60 attendees responded & attended our first “in person” meeting on June 2022, showing the “need” still exists for the continuation of our Support Group.

We extend a great big “thank you” to all the monthly speakers for sharing their expertise in helping our attendees better understand prostate cancer. In addition, many thanks to the individuals who have supported and attended our meetings over the past 30 years.