

A Needs Assessment of Community Resources and Services for People with Cancer and their Families in New Brunswick

Why is this project important?

- Individuals who have received a cancer diagnosis (cancer survivors) and their families often require access to supportive care services (SCS) in addition to the medical treatment they receive.
- SCS can help meet individuals' physical, social, emotional, psychological, informational, spiritual and practical needs.
- SCS can include support groups, exercise classes, massage, physiotherapy, counselling, etc.
- While SCS can be extremely beneficial to individuals and their support networks, these services are not always available.



What are we doing?

- The main objective of this study was to explore the experiences of cancer survivors, their families, caregivers, and care providers in New Brunswick in accessing SCS.
- An environmental scan of existing SCS in NB was conducted.
- Surveys were distributed to cancer survivors, family members, caregivers, and care providers in NB.
- 47 SCS were identified through the environmental scan. Most services focused on cancer survivors. Services were offered through a variety of volunteer, non-profit, and hospital organizations.
- 44 survey responses were received: 33 cancer survivors; 9 caregivers and 2 care providers (care provider responses were not included in the analysis).
- Overall, cancer survivors were divided on how they rated their follow up care: 34% very good; 29% good; 16% fair; 21% poor.
- In open text responses, cancer survivors and their caregivers/family members most often reported the following: a lack of informational/navigational support; a lack of mental health supports; and inadequate service coordination.
- All participants reported wanting a supportive care centre in NB.

How will this help?

- This results from this study provide insight into the availability of SCS in New Brunswick, as well as experiences, gaps, and barriers when accessing services.
- The study also provides insight into the supportive care needs of New Brunswickers, which could inform changes in policy and practice.

Who can I contact?

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