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# News Release

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**Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer  
Care Foundation**

Lynette Hillier  
Care Foundation Executive Director

Date: October 30, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Travel Costs Identified as #1 Financial Concern for Cancer Patients - Cancer Care Foundation Releases New Statistics -**

**St. John's, NL:** Today, the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation released 18 months of comprehensive statistics from the Foundation's Patient and Family Support Fund. The Patient and Family Support Fund was established in 2003 to help cancer patients and their families who are experiencing financial difficulty as a result of their diagnosis. The Fund is supported through the generosity of many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in addition to our corporate sponsors North Atlantic, Shoppers Drug Mart and Scotiabank.

The Patient and Family Support Fund is administered through the Social Work Department at the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre. The Fund's primary objective is to help adult cancer patients and their families identify government programs and services that may be able to provide financial support. If no alternate programs are identified the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation's Patient and Family Support Fund may provide limited financial assistance to patients who are experiencing financial hardship as a result of a cancer diagnosis.

For the 18 month period of April 2007 – September 2008, the following are highlights from statistics for the Cancer Care Foundation's Patient and Family Support Fund:

- The Cancer Care Foundation dispersed \$156,400 in assistance directly to cancer patients and their families □
- 742 applications were submitted to the Patient and Family Support Fund
- 671 applications were approved and received assistance from the Patient and Family Support Fund □
- 73% of cancer patients assisted through the Patient and Family Support Fund identified the cost of travel between their homes and a cancer centre as their primary reason for applying to the Fund. □

“The Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation believes in full accessibility to cancer treatment programs and services for all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. There are four cancer centres in this province located in St. John's, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor and Corner Brook and there are cancer patients travelling from their home communities to receive treatment at each of these cancer centres, says Lynette Hillier, Executive Director. “Not every cancer patient must travel to St. John's – there are many patients who travel to a regional cancer centre to receive chemotherapy or to see a visiting oncologist and are incurring the high cost of travel. As a charitable foundation we are attempting to help alleviate the financial burden of cancer, however, these statistics demonstrate the immediate need for an improved travel re-imburement program.”

The *Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation* is a registered charitable organization whose mission is to raise funds to enhance treatment and supportive care programs for cancer patients, fund local cancer research initiatives and provide continuing education opportunities for staff of the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre and affiliated cancer programs in Newfoundland and Labrador. All funds raised by the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation remain in Newfoundland and Labrador. The web site may be viewed at [www.cancercarefoundation.nl.ca](http://www.cancercarefoundation.nl.ca).

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For more information, please call:  
Lynette Hillier, Executive Director  
Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation  
Call: (709) 777-7590