

FIGHT FOR SIGHT



FIGHTING
BLINDNESS
CANADA

VAINCRE
LA CÉCITÉ
CANADA

A person and a child are walking away from the camera on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright path of light on the water and sand. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with some clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and hopeful.

**... THE POWER TO CHANGE
LIVES IN THE FUTURE**

Fighting Blindness Canada (Fighting Blindness Canada) has been leading the fight against blindness since 1974. Beginning as the Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation of Canada, it was created in response to parents watching their children battle incurable eye disease and not being able to do anything about it. Witnessing the considerable challenges in life and feeling powerless, they just had to do something to find treatments to save their loved one's sight. They created a more hopeful future by believing in the power of ground-breaking research.

In 2000, Fighting Blindness Canada grew into the Foundation Fighting Blindness and expanded its mission beyond rare inherited retinal diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome and Stargardt disease to include age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The long-term focus on funding vision research steadily demonstrated that a discovery about one disease often reveals important insights about another. Many of the most promising and exciting vision research projects are relevant to many different eye diseases. These meaningful interconnections inspired and informed the expansion of the mission to include all blinding eye diseases. To communicate this expansion, Fighting Blindness Canada (Fighting Blindness Canada) evolved in 2019—the country's leader charitable funder of vision research.



By funding strategic research initiatives, Fighting Blindness Canada offers hope to Canadians by identifying the best, most promising research that is driving treatments and cures for blinding eye diseases, and by raising funds from Canadians to support this essential, sight-saving research.



Over its 47-year history, Fighting Blindness Canada has invested over \$40 million to support vision research and education across Canada: over 200 research grants that have led to more than 600 new discoveries in areas such as stem cell research, neuroprotective therapies, technological developments, pharmaceuticals, and gene therapies.

All of the research and educational initiatives undertaken by Fighting Blindness Canada, support the goals of understanding why vision loss occurs, how it can be slowed or stopped, and how sight can be restored. Highly specialized research has yielded dramatic results to develop new treatments using gene therapy and stem cells, to halt the advancement of inherited eye diseases and treatments for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma and diabetes-related vision loss. Results are happening every day to combat variety of blinding eye disease – changing lives forever!





Now look to the future – currently, a staggering 1.2 MILLION Canadians are blind or partially sighted; an estimated 5.6 MILLION Canadians have a blinding eye disease that puts them at risk of blindness. As the population ages, the number of Canadians with vision loss is expected to grow by 50% over the next 15 years. There is a tidal wave happening and Fighting Blindness Canada is positioned to do something about it.

- It is the largest charitable funder of vision loss research in Canada, identifying the best, most promising peer-reviewed research, using support from many donors to find the causes and cures for blindness;
- Is nimble and strategic in funding the right research and bringing life-changing solutions to the people living with vision loss;
- Has built a formidable scientist network in Canada and internationally to bring the best and brightest together to understand root causes and find solutions for vision loss;
- Has created an innovative patient registry used to connect participants to clinical trials and research and provide information about the number of Canadians living with inherited retinal diseases which is crucial to drive sight saving research, influence health care decision making and improve access to new treatments;
- Is passionate in ending blindness and urgently doing something about it to improve the lives of children and adults in Canada and around the world.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

We can join with others to invest in strategic research by the best scientists to change the future for all of those challenged by devastating vision loss.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Consider a gift in your Will to Fighting Blindness Canada – a simple gift in your Will, creates miraculous results. You have the power to do something extraordinary.



THINK

- no more feeling helpless when hearing the story of a child battling through life with blindness;
- no more watching the life of a parent or other elderly person slowly deteriorate with advancing eye disease losing precious independence;
- no more living with a loved one whose vision disappears along with the other ravages of diabetes.



NO MORE!

A gift from your assets of any size, when you no longer need them, will give you the power to fight blindness in the future. A gift in your Will is a key part of the **Fight for Sight ... the power to change lives in the future.**

VISIONARY CIRCLE ... CHANGING LIVES IN THE FUTURE

When a donor like you creates a future gift to benefit Fighting Blindness Canada, you become a visionary - someone who wishes to support the ongoing effort to eliminating eye disease today and for generations to come. Fighting Blindness Canada would like to link your gift with the many others who have also created a gift in their Will or estate plan through our **Visionary Circle**. The **Visionary Circle** is group of generous individuals who have realized the joy of giving recipients a brighter future. Ask us about the many benefits of becoming a member of our **Visionary Circle**.



FIGHTING
BLINDNESS
CANADA

VAINCRE
LA CÉCITÉ
CANADA

You can help restore sight through a gift in your Will.

Please contact Doug Smith, Manager, Planned Giving and Donor Relations.

1.800.461.3331 | 416.360.4200 ext. 237 | dsmith@fightingblindness.ca.

FIGHTINGBLINDNESS.CA