



**FIGHTING
BLINDNESS
CANADA**



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CANADA**

2022 IMPACT REPORT



1.2 MILLION CANADIANS LIVE WITH VISION LOSS

Your support helps fund amazing researchers who are creating a brighter future for Canadians living with vision loss and blindness.

To learn more and donate visit:
fightingblindness.ca

To access our Health Information Line,
call or email: **1.888.626.2995**
healthinfo@fightingblindness.ca

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YOU ARE PART OF SOMETHING BIG, SOMETHING LIFE-CHANGING.

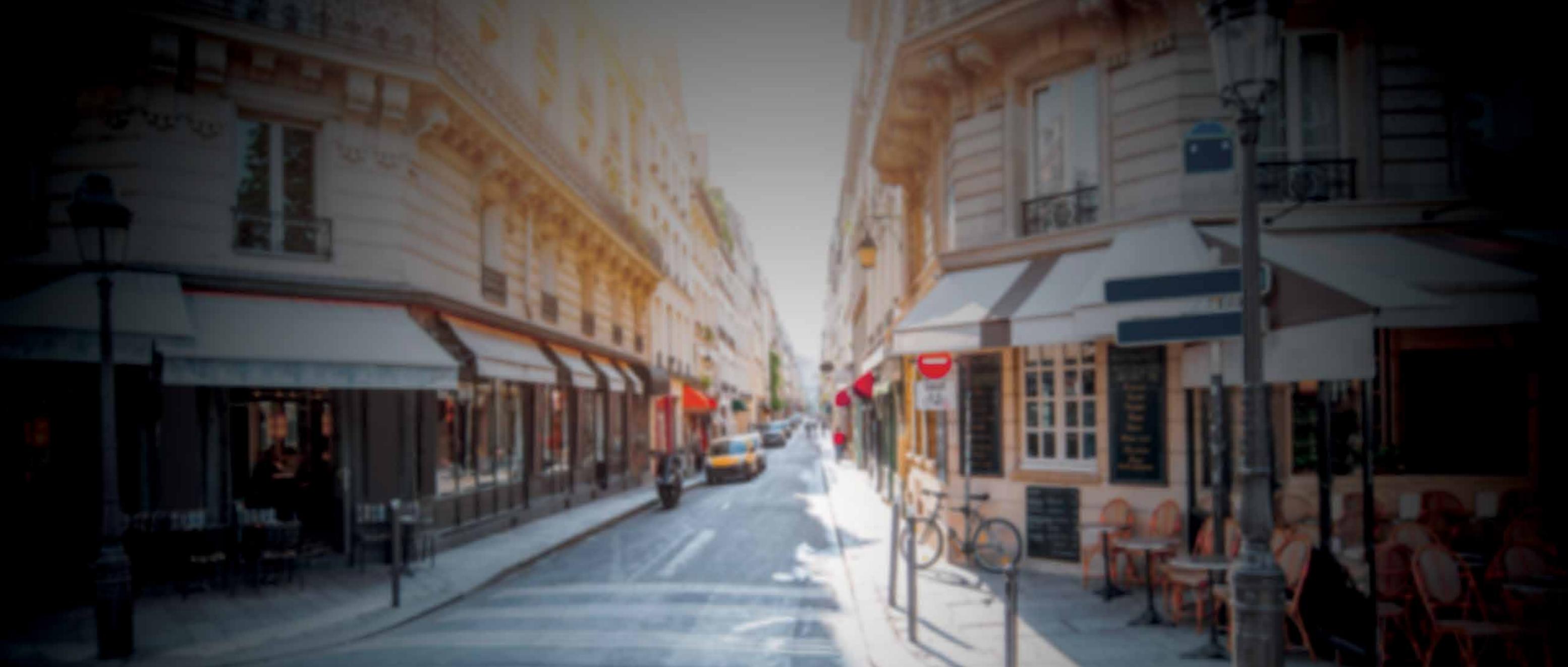
Christina Henderson, mother of two, was devastated to learn her children had an inherited retinal disease (IRD) that would slowly take their sight. Fighting Blindness Canada (FBC)-funded research supported by you is leading to breakthroughs for IRDs and many other eye diseases.

“I knew something was wrong. You could tell by the expression on the doctor’s face. When I was told of the diagnosis, it felt like all the information was swirling around me. I kept thinking, will my children have the same opportunities as other children? What happens now?”

Knowing that researchers are working hard brings me hope. Hope that one day there will be a cure that will stop blindness and save my children’s sight.”

- Christina Henderson, Burnaby, BC





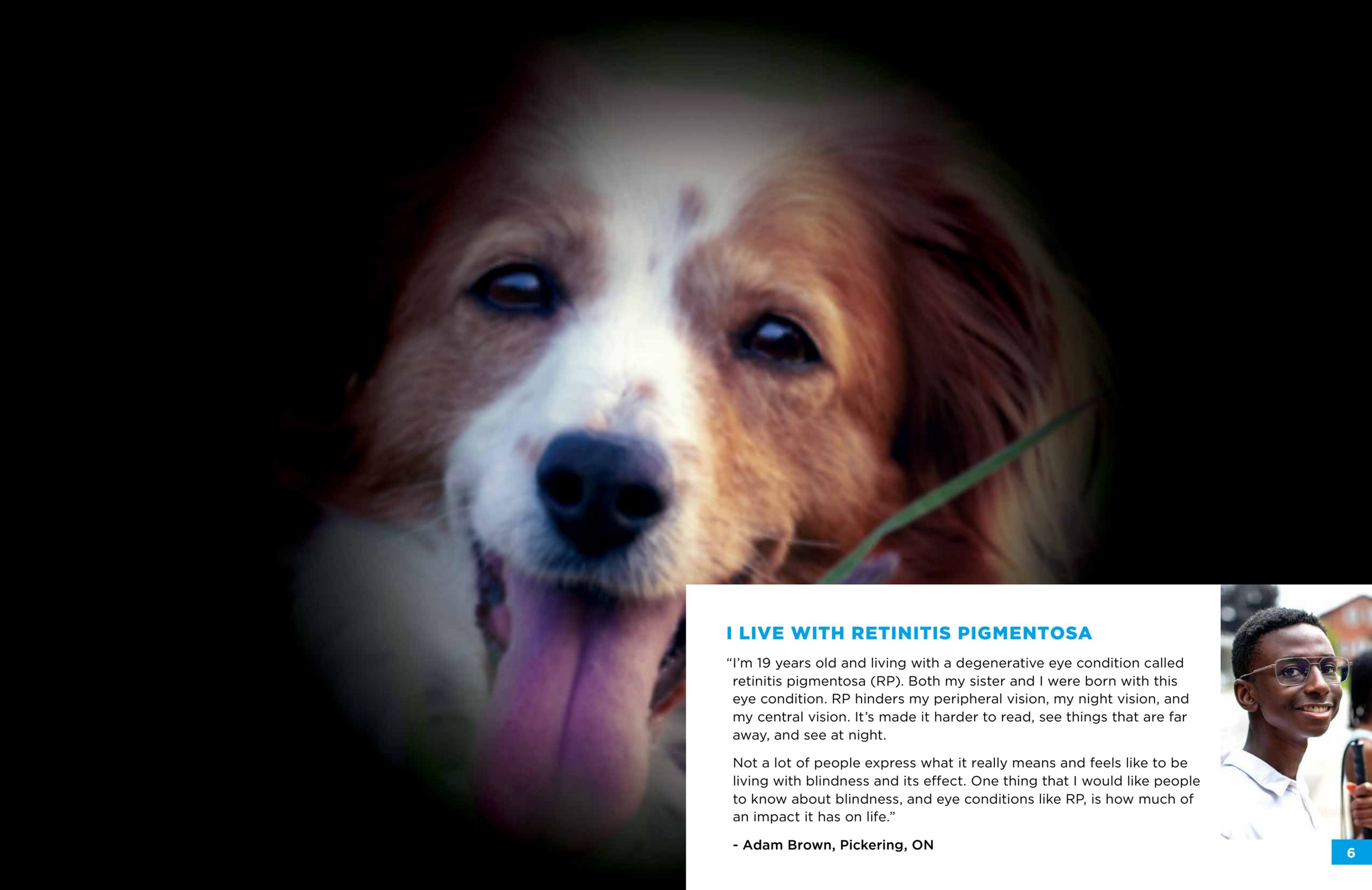
I LIVE WITH GLAUCOMA

“My mother was diagnosed with glaucoma years ago. This caused me to go see an ophthalmologist to check my vision. The eye doctor told me that my retina and the thickness of my optic nerve was a bit different, and shared that it looked like I had glaucoma for a number of years. He recommended I start medication for glaucoma right away and consider surgery to help lower the pressure in my eyes.

At the time, I was in my thirties and in my mind invincible. When I realized I was going through something very serious with my health, it made me realize that life is very important and fragile.”

- **Geoffroy Gravel-Chalifour, Montreal, QC**





I LIVE WITH RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA

“I’m 19 years old and living with a degenerative eye condition called retinitis pigmentosa (RP). Both my sister and I were born with this eye condition. RP hinders my peripheral vision, my night vision, and my central vision. It’s made it harder to read, see things that are far away, and see at night.

Not a lot of people express what it really means and feels like to be living with blindness and its effect. One thing that I would like people to know about blindness, and eye conditions like RP, is how much of an impact it has on life.”

- Adam Brown, Pickering, ON





I LIVE WITH DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

“I started losing my vision 15 years ago. I stopped driving, had to leave my job, and dealt with mental health challenges. It all started with my diagnosis of type 2 diabetes in 1992. I wasn’t aware that vision loss was a complication of diabetes until the damage was done.

2005 was a rude awakening. My specialist explained my vision loss was due to diabetic retinopathy. I’d never heard this before. Despite many surgeries, treatment didn’t work. I started anti-VEGFs that worked for a short time, and after started a steroid treatment that dramatically improved the bleeding in my eye. Today, I’m doing well but have made sacrifices to save the vision I have left.”

- Frances Cupello, Calgary, AB



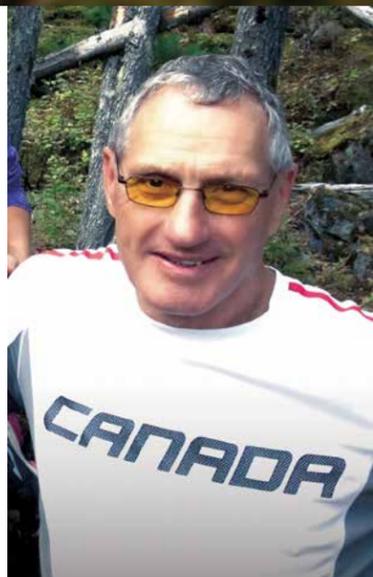


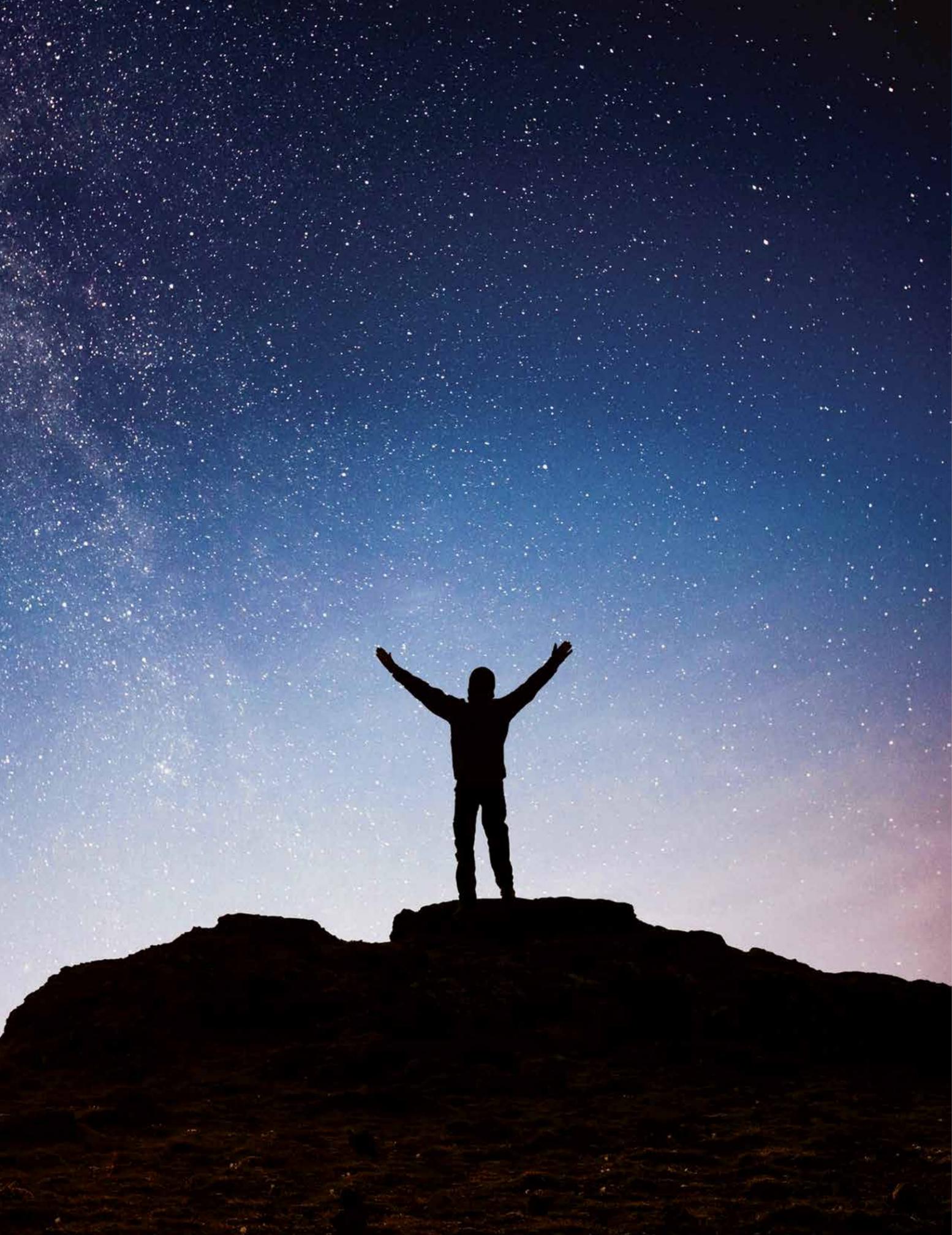
I LIVE WITH WET AMD

“Every day, I wake up and think, ‘Without research, I would be completely blind.’ I’ve had glasses since I was eight, and in my late fifties I was diagnosed with wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Since then, I’ve also developed glaucoma in my right eye.

With AMD you lose central vision, with glaucoma your peripheral – so it’s a double whammy. I was fortunate to be diagnosed and treated early; this was critical. My vision loss has certainly impacted my life. I use various tools at work, like voice control, but I’m so grateful for the treatments stabilizing my sight.”

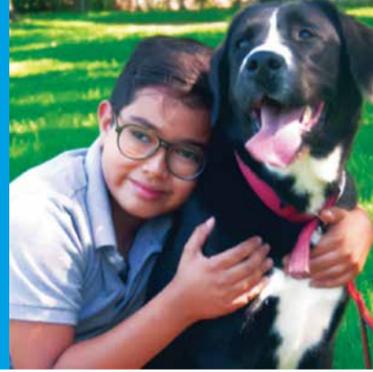
- Doug Purdy, Vancouver, BC





“I hope to one day see the stars.”

William, 11 years old, from Montreal is living with Leber congenital amaurosis, an inherited retinal disease that causes progressive vision loss that leads to blindness.



TAKING ACTION

In 2022, our community generously shared its voice urging governments to move research forward and improve access to eye health for Canadians.

GAINING ACCESS TO A SIGHT-SAVING GENE THERAPY

FBC helped Canadians like William get one step closer to accessing Luxturna® - a ground-breaking gene therapy for those with inherited retinal diseases retinitis pigmentosa and Leber congenital amaurosis, caused by mutations in the RPE65 gene.

While Health Canada approved Luxturna in 2020, the treatment was not publicly funded. FBC is leading the advocacy effort to urge provincial health care coverage of this treatment that slows progression of vision loss and can even restore some sight.

Thanks to the vision communities' support, this treatment was approved for public funding in Quebec in the fall of 2022, and our efforts will continue until all Canadians have access.

To learn more, visit [ApproveLuxturna.ca](https://www.approveluxturna.ca)

CALLING FOR A NATIONAL EYE CARE STRATEGY

FBC has long advocated for a national vision strategy to improve eye health care and support and increase funding for innovative research.

In 2022, a private members bill to establish a National Eye Care Strategy was introduced in the House of Commons. Today and into 2023, FBC is asking our community to send an email to their Members of Parliament urging them to prioritize Canadian's vision and establish a National Eye Care Strategy.

To learn more, visit [EyeCareStrategy.ca](https://www.eyecarestrategy.ca)

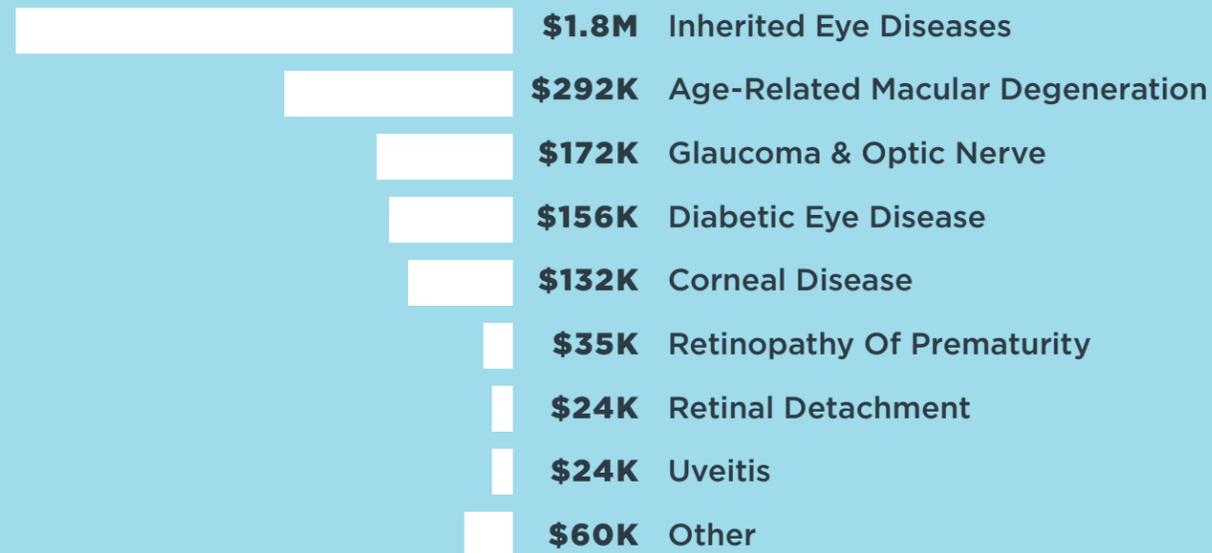
DRIVEN BY HOPE

Fighting Blindness Canada (FBC) is the largest charitable funder of vision research in Canada. Our mission is to invest in the best, most promising vision research to advance knowledge, treatments and cures for blinding eye diseases. We are driven by hope.

INVESTING IN INNOVATION

With donor support, we are investing in more vision research today than ever before. In 2022, FBC awarded \$2.6 million to 35 projects enabling research into stem cell therapy, optogenetics, new drug therapies, and more.

We fund research into many eye diseases.



Learn more about FBC-funded research at
fightingblindness.ca/research



RESEARCH THAT TRANSFORMS

Dr. David Gamm (University of Wisconsin)

Photoreceptor cell replacement therapy for retinitis pigmentosa.

“FBC funding allowed us to rapidly advance our photoreceptor replacement program to the brink of first-in-human clinical trials. Results from these studies helped advance partnerships with industry that ultimately led to a \$70M investment from clinical trial partners. We now have a 3-continent consortium to advance therapeutics all with the goal to improving vision in patients with inherited retinal diseases.”



Dr. Julie Lefebvre (SickKids)

Understanding retinal circuits to restore sight.

“Funding opportunities for developing and adapting technologies are typically limited, especially in Canada. Importantly, FBC funding gives us the opportunity to collaborate and address the gap in circuit neuroscience which will be important given the growing potential for optogenetic technologies.”



Dr. Sachdev Sidhu (University of Waterloo)

Testing a new treatment for age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy.

“Funding enabled us to pursue a project that was not funded by any other source. We are extremely thankful to FBC donors for supporting our research and development efforts. We hope that this research will lead to new therapies for patients living with retinopathies.”



INVESTING IN TALENT

FBC funding has helped launch and sustain the careers of Canadian vision researchers. This investment helps ensure a strong and sustainable community of clinicians and scientists committed to developing new therapies and providing the best eye care for Canadians.

FBC’s Clinician-Scientist Emerging Leader award allows young ophthalmologists and optometrists to gain crucial research experience and launch independent research careers. In 2022, FBC funding is allowing 8 passionate and driven clinician-scientists to tackle important questions in vision research.

YOUR SUPPORT IS DRIVING CHANGE

“Thanks to FBC donors, together, we can bring about great change and give so many people, including my daughter, hope for a future with sight.”

- Sitka Polk, parent of daughter living with vision loss

“I’m pleased to bring these new opportunities to my patients and to have the support of FBC, which for decades has been a great advocate of patients with vision loss.”

- Dr. Brian Ballios, FBC-funded researcher

“With the help of Fighting Blindness Canada, we were actually able to spearhead treatment for our twin boys who live with a rare inherited retinal disease, and most importantly raise awareness of their eye condition and advocate for others that have it too.”

- Christina Cordeiro, parent of twin sons living with vision loss

“Thank you to the FBC team for all the work they have done to change our life for the better.”

- Khaled Khayrallah, parent of child living with vision loss

“I want to thank all of the donors that are helping Fighting Blindness Canada fund the most excellent and Innovative science in Canada.”

- Dr. Michel Cayouette, FBC Scientific Advisory Board Chair

A GLANCE AT 2022

This year, we connected with Canadians to raise awareness of the need for ongoing research funding to support the advancement of new treatments for blinding eye diseases. Below are 2022 triumphs that you helped make possible...

36,000

DONATIONS
MADE

\$2.6M

INVESTED IN
VISION RESEARCH

33M

PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENT
VIEWS

72,400

ONLINE
FOLLOWERS

277,000

WEBSITE
VIEWS

79M

SOCIAL
IMPRESSIONS

1,200

FUNDRAISING
EVENT
PARTICIPANTS

1,250

EDUCATION
EVENT
PARTICIPANTS

66,000

EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS

Learn how you can support FBC-funded research at
fightingblindness.ca/get-involved/give