



January 31, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH IS EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH IN EDMONTON



March is Epilepsy Awareness Month across Canada. [The Edmonton Epilepsy Association \(EEA\)](http://www.edmontonepilepsy.org), is proud to be the key leader in awareness, education, and support for Epilepsy across northern Alberta!

Epilepsy, a neurological condition that affects 1 in 100 Canadians, with over 20,000 people diagnosed each year across Canada. Misfirings in the brain's electrical currents cause seizures, and anyone can develop Epilepsy at any time, from children, to adults, from genetics, to other diseases, to brain injuries. Strokes can trigger the onset of Epilepsy.

Although living with Epilepsy can be difficult, it is not a barrier to achievement. Many great people in history have lived with Epilepsy and many famous people, in all areas of life, live with Epilepsy and thrive in their own way! However, Epilepsy remains a mysterious condition, which often scares people and carries a stigma of disability and isolation. Epilepsy carries the added disadvantage of often being an "invisible disability", which is harder to explain and teach about to the community, and impacts those who live with it, adding isolation, shame, and fear.



The [EEA](#), a registered charity since 1960, remains the only Agency providing educational and awareness programs, as well as support services to the more than 20,000 individuals living with Epilepsy in greater Edmonton, Northern Alberta, and the N.W.T. Our key programs include a series of [Epilepsy Information Booklets](#), freely available to all, online and in print, as well as a free live puppet show called [Kids On The Block](#), which teaches students in elementary grades what it feels like to live with Epilepsy.

To celebrate and create increased awareness about Epilepsy during the month of March, the EEA will run a series of special initiatives that we hope you can assist us in promoting. [All details about these initiatives can be easily found at this page on our website.](#)

- Lighting of the High-Level Bridge in Edmonton, on March 26, 2022
- Lighting of the Alberta Legislature Grounds, on March 26, 2022
- Proclamation of March 26, 2022 as Purple Day, the day dedicated to people living with Epilepsy, by Edmonton Mayor, Amarjeet Sohi
- "1 in 100" social media postings campaign with the Canadian Epilepsy Alliance (CEA)
- Run two live *Kids on the Block* shows on Purple Day, March 25, 2022 freely available online at 10:00 and 12:00 a.m. MST

As part of numerous educational events and other activities throughout the month, EEA will continue to offer [its special scholarships](#), with application deadline of MARCH 31, 2022:

- *Continuing Education Scholarship*
- *Garry Hannigan Memorial Scholarship Fund*
- *Brittany Hughes Memorial Scholarship Fund*

Epilepsy Awareness Month will wrap up on International Purple Day, March 26th, with participation by everyone to the live broadcast of *Light the Night!*, a social media event coordinated by the [Canadian Epilepsy Alliance, CEA](#).

For details about our events to celebrate March Epilepsy Awareness Month, visit our website at

<https://edmontonepilepsy.org/marchepilepsy2022/>

or contact the Executive Director, Valeria Palladino at 780-488-9600 or valeria@edmontonepilepsy.org