



**Are you one of the 750,000 “diagnosed” COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) patients here in Canada? Perhaps you’re a caregiver, support person or family member?**

**Although it’s the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in our country, and though it’s estimated that there’s at least another 750,000 people undiagnosed or “misdiagnosed”, fifty-two percent of the population has never heard of this disease and 69% have never heard of the acronym “COPD”.**

**What is COPD? It’s a progressive lung disease that blocks and obstructs the airways making it very difficult to breathe. It’s sometimes referred to as emphysema or chronic bronchitis. Quite often a person with COPD may have both, including an asthma component.**

**The end result? Many patients are left feeling alone, frightened and isolated, sometimes needlessly struggling through every day. It’s for these reasons and more that COPD Canada Patient Network (CCPN) was formed.**

**As a nationally registered charitable organization run by people living with COPD, the Network strives to educate the general public, (as well as some in the medical field), the current and newly diagnosed COPD’er, along with their caregivers and support people while advocating for better understanding, more access to newer generation medicines and treatments including more rehab facilities. As patients the organization can “empathize,” not just “sympathize.”**

**Reputable and recommended by many National and International organizations and Institutions including the Public Health Agency of Canada (as a COPD info resource), COPD Canada Patient Network is also a member of the Interim Steering Committee for the National Lung Health Framework and the web site is HONCode certified for “Trustworthy Health Information.”**

**Anyone effected by COPD can join for FREE and enjoy discounts offered by several suppliers, learn about the latest information and research, receive quarterly newsletters, monthly “Air Mail”, or share with others through the message board or “Chat”.**

**COPD is NOT a death sentence! Through disease education and management which also includes the proper medicines and exercise, COPD patients now travel, walk half marathons, work, socialize; do whatever they want even if they’re on oxygen! Many are also living well into their 70s and 80’s!**

**COPD can be managed! However, you have to want to take charge and take control. It begins with learning as much as possible about the disease. It's hoped that COPD Canada Patient Network will be your start.**

**For additional information visit [www.copdcanada.ca](http://www.copdcanada.ca) or write to:**

**COPD Canada Patient Network, 3047 Old Sambro Rd, Williamswood, NS  
Canada B3V 1E6**

**And remember, together we CAN! *Care - Advocate - Network.***