



Western Canadian Children's Heart Network (WCCHN)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heart Week 2024 Set To Kick Off With Cardiac Pitch Competition.

WCCHN's BoostUp returns this February, and you can help choose a winner.

(Edmonton, Alberta)

February is Heart Month, and the Western Canadian Children's Heart Network (WCCHN) is celebrating by hosting its annual BoostUp Pitch Competition. Showcasing six pediatric heart projects as they pitch for seed funding, audience members will vote for their favorite, helping to choose one of three winners announced that night.

Last year's event saw huge success as WCCHN awarded \$30,000 in support of these important heart projects:

- **Audience Favorite** - Dr. George Slim - Virtual Heart Connection: Fontan Family Camp
- **Judge's Choice** - Alanna Ash - Modified Fat Breastmilk: A Family Centred Strategy for Chylothorax
- **Alumni's Pick** - Kristy Wolfe - Digital Storytelling Workshop: Stories of Young Adults with CHD
- **Pay-it-Forward Audience Raffle** - Caitlynn Gives Back: A Gift for Child Life

"WCCHN is committed to supporting grassroots ideas that can positively impact the lives of cardiac children, their families, and the CHD community. Join us as we work together to fuel innovation and accelerate change for heart kids across the west."

Elina Williams, Program Manager, WCCHN

Learn more about CHD and WCCHN's Connected Community by hearing from industry leaders, celebrated experts, and the people we serve at this year's event.

BoostUp takes place live online, Thursday, February 8th, 2024, from 19:00 - 20:30 MST.

Learn more and register to watch at wcchn.ca/boostup



Elina, BoostUp 2023's event host, pumps up the live crowd online for the six finalists about to pitch for funding. (WCCHN photo)

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

Anonymous survey quotes from audience members tell us this event made them feel:

“So very invigorated and proud of our heart community and support.”

“More informed about some of the great things being done for our heart kids.”

“Inspired, grateful and proud.”

“Hopeful and optimistic.”

“Really good about the dedicated people that work in this field and are doing such great work to improve patient care.”

Event Website. <https://wcchn.ca/boostup/>

BoostUp 2023 Sizzle Reel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLPg0AdWShk>

2023 and 2022 Event Recaps with Winners: <https://wcchn.ca/parents-families/boostupevent/>

At the Western Canadian Children’s Heart Network (WCCHN), little hearts are our big calling. For over 20 years, we’ve dedicated ourselves to ensuring that children with heart disease – and their families – receive the best cardiac care available. By using a regional approach, we bridge some of the greatest minds and best facilities across provincial borders to achieve a shared goal: providing world-class care to children in Western Canada, when it’s needed the most.

A partnership amongst:



BC Children’s Hospital
4480 Oak Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4



Stollery Children’s Hospital
8440 112th Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6G 2B7

Alberta Children’s Hospital



Alberta Children’s Hospital
28 Oki Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta T3B 6A8



Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital
103 Hospital Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W8



Children’s Hospital, HSC
JM 476 – 820 Sherbrook Street
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