



Western Canadian Children's Heart Network (WCCHN)

College Plaza, Suite 1910
8215 112 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2C8
(587) 782-3259
www.wcchn.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 04, 2024

Cardiac Pitch Competition Awards Over \$30,000 During Heart Month.

WCCHN's BoostUp brings together heart community to showcase and fund grassroots CHD projects.

(Edmonton, Alberta)

The third annual Western Canadian Children's Heart Network (WCCHN) BoostUp Cardiac Pitch Competition was a phenomenal event and a huge success. This year WCCHN decided to look backwards and scooped up six previous All-Stars for a second shot at the win. Finalists were split into two categories: **New and Notable** gave three past applicants the opportunity to pitch for the first time and **Back by Popular Demand** brought back three past finalists.

Awarded live that evening, over \$30,000 in funding will be distributed to help support important heart projects:

- **Audience Favorite** – Amy Porter, Tiny HeartsCan Foundation: Hands-On Sonographer Training: Alberta Pilot.
- **Judge's Choice: New & Notable** – Veena Sivarajan, PCICU MIND Program
- **Judge's Choice: Back by Popular Demand** – V. Ben Sivarajan, Keeping Your Cutting Edge
- **Pay-it-Forward Audience Raffle** – Amanda Gives Back: Mending Little Hearts Fund

All finalists are generating energy, changing the conversation, and growing good things for our heart community. BoostUp is an opportunity to learn more about Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) and WCCHN's Connected Community by hearing from industry leaders, celebrated experts, and the people they serve.

BoostUp is planned to return for CHD Awareness Week 2025 which is held each year from February 7-14.

Learn more about BoostUp and the winner's projects at <https://wcchn.ca/parents-families/boostupevent/>



Bryce Lambert, BoostUp 2024's event host, is all smiles as he pumps up the live crowd online for the six finalists about to pitch for funding. (WCCHN photo)

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

February is Heart Month and BoostUp takes place during CHD Awareness Week which is held each year from February 7-14.

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

"Love, support and commitment to children/families with these health issues."

"So many wonderful things happening in the world of CHD."

"Part of a group."

"Impressed with the moms who are out to make change."

"Wow, no matter what the media/written articles are portraying, there are people/medical and lay people dedicating their time and lives to this group program."

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

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

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

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
Winnipeg, MB R3A 1R9

If you would like more information about this topic please contact Kevin Pahl, Business and Communications Advisor, WCCHN at (403) 488-9927 or kevin.pahl@ahs.ca.