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New law makes Alberta an international leader in the fight against cancer; establishes \$500 million prevention fund

Edmonton... Alberta has demonstrated its commitment to becoming a leader in the fight against cancer with the proclamation of the *Cancer Prevention Legacy Act*.

"We know the devastating affects of cancer on individuals and families, as well as the toll it takes on health care resources," said Iris Evans, Minister of Health and Wellness. "This new law shows the province is committed to finding a cure for this terrible disease and to help save the lives of more Albertans."

In a quest to build a cancer-free future for Albertans, the Act establishes a \$500 million Alberta Cancer Prevention Legacy Fund to support initiatives in cancer prevention, screening, education and research. The fund will support a virtual research institute to coordinate all cancer research throughout the province. As well, existing cancer screening programs will be expanded and new ones created to help detect the signs of cancer in its earliest stages.

Cancer is a leading cause of death in Alberta. It will strike almost half of all Alberta men and two in five women during their lifetimes. Over 81,000 Albertans are living with cancer today and that number is expected to increase to over 200,000 by 2025. Research indicates that half of all cancers are preventable.

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