



## **The Arthritis Society and the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) announce strategic partnership**

**Ottawa, February 8, 2017** – The Arthritis Society and the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) are joining forces to share resources and advance the voice of people living with arthritis on the national stage.

While the two organizations have a long history of collaboration, this announcement cements that relationship towards a common goal: advancing patient well-being and advocacy. CAPA brings to the relationship a deep expertise in fostering and valuing the patient, perfectly complementing The Arthritis Society's depth and capacity as a thought leader and driver of policy change across Canada. Together the partners will work to represent the views of people living with arthritis across a broad spectrum of important initiatives such as workplace health, access to treatment and the development of a national pharmacare strategy.

“We have always valued our close relationship with CAPA,” said Arthritis Society president and CEO Janet Yale. “With this agreement we are formalizing that partnership in order to advance our shared goal of improving the lives of people affected by arthritis. This disease reaches every corner of our society, impacting people of every age, from every walk of life. Working together, we will make an even stronger case for the urgency of addressing arthritis at a national level.”

“Our organizations share a proven commitment to pursuing the best interests of people living with arthritis, such as in the creation of our [Arthritis Patient Charter](#),” said CAPA president Linda Wilhelm. “As Canadians continue to debate healthcare policy, it is extremely important that the voices of people living with arthritis are heard and accounted for. By working together, we will be better able to ensure that their needs are met, both now and for the future.”

Characterized by pain, inflammation, fatigue and restricted mobility, arthritis is a leading cause of disability that erodes quality of life for more than 4.6 million people in Canada today – a number that is expected to grow to 7.5 million in the next twenty years.

**About The Arthritis Society**

The Arthritis Society has been setting lives in motion for over 65 years. Dedicated to a vision of living well while creating a future without arthritis, The Society is Canada's principal health charity providing education, programs and support to the more than 4.6 million Canadians living with arthritis. Since its founding in 1948, The Society has been the largest non-government funder of arthritis research in Canada, investing over \$195 million in projects that have led to breakthroughs in the diagnosis, treatment and care of people with arthritis. The Arthritis Society is accredited under Imagine Canada's Standards Program. For more information and to make a donation, visit [www.arthritis.ca](http://www.arthritis.ca).

### **About the Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA)**

The Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance (CAPA) is a grassroots, independent patient organization that seeks to provide a voice for Canadians living with all types of arthritis. CAPA's Steering Committee is comprised of people who live with different types of arthritis. CAPA works collaboratively with other organizations to achieve its goals, and has partners that are both nationally- and internationally-focused. Along with CAPA's advocacy efforts, we have recently started to build resources and tools for patients on topics for which they have told us they require more information.

### **For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

Douglas Emerson  
National Communications Manager – The Arthritis Society  
416-979-7228 x3348  
[demerson@arthritis.ca](mailto:demerson@arthritis.ca)

Linda Wilhelm  
President – CAPA  
506-645-8712  
[linda.wilhelm@arthritispatient.ca](mailto:linda.wilhelm@arthritispatient.ca)