



Provincial Health Services Authority

## Resources for Hair Loss and Appearance Changes

Cancer treatments can cause hair loss and other temporary changes to the way you look and feel. The following information and resources might help you in making choices that are right for you.

### **BCCA Cancer Information Centres:**

Pamphlets and videos are available at each Cancer Centre, on coping with hair loss and skin changes as well as tips on head wraps, hats and scarf tying

### **Look Good, Feel Better (LGFB) Workshop:**

LGFB workshops help women living with cancer learn special cosmetic techniques and tips on wigs and head coverings in order to help cope with the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment. Sessions are usually once a month at a local venue or in your Cancer Centre. LGFB offers workshops one time only per person at no cost. In addition, a wig consultation and stylist service may be available at the session. To learn more or find a workshop in your area, call 1.800.914.5665 or visit their website [www.lgfb.ca](http://www.lgfb.ca)

### **Wigs and Head Coverings:**

No cost head coverings and wigs may be available at your Cancer Centre or at a Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) location near your Cancer Centre.

Abbotsford - Cosmetic Counseling Room located on the main floor sign up sheet available at BC Cancer main reception desk

Prince George – Kordyban Lodge (next to the Centre)  
250.562.3535

Surrey - “The Living Room” located on level 1 at BC Cancer

Kelowna – Rotary Lodge (next to the Centre)  
250.712.2203

Vancouver – Jean C. Barber Lodge (next to the Centre)  
604.879.9121

Victoria - CCS Lodge, 2202 Richmond Road,  
250.592.2662

### **Wig Boutiques and Hair Salons:**

Check in the Yellow Pages under Wigs and Hairpieces or Beauty Salons for listings in your area or refer to CCS website under Supports & Services > Community Service Locator

### **Financial Information:**

The cost of a wig may be a burden to you. You may or may not be eligible for compensation but here are some things to consider:

Ask your physician to provide you with a ‘prescription’ for a wig. This prescription should indicate that you need the wig for medical reasons.

Health Insurance BC will not reimburse you for your wig. However, you can use the physician’s prescription to verify your need when you seek reimbursement through other sources.

CCS may have a local unit office in other communities that offer a selection of donated wigs and head-coverings. All donated wigs are cleaned and professionally styled. Borrowed wigs must be returned after use. For more information from the Canadian Cancer Society refer to [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca) under Support Services or call the Cancer Information Line at 1.888.939.3333.

Financial re-imbursement for medical expenses including wigs may be available when filing your Income Tax Return - contact Canada Revenue.

If you are a member of First Nations Non-Insured Benefits Program, contact them prior to purchasing a wig and make sure you have a prescription from your physician - call 1.800.317.7878 (BC Region).

If you have Extended Health Benefits through an employer or through a service group, you may be eligible for reimbursement. Check with the plan or program administrator to determine your coverage and their requirements.

### **Donating Hair for Wigs:**

BC Cancer Agency Centres do not accept any hair donations. If you wish to donate your hair for use in making wigs, the following B.C. companies do accept hair donations.

Eva & Co Wigs Unit 107, 950 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K7	Send acceptable hair by regular mail only. Address to "Hair Donation Program". Hair should be a minimum of 8" (20cm) in length. Do not braid your hair
Havana Technical Hair Design 4889 Slocan Street Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A2	Send acceptable hair by regular mail only. Address to "Hair Donation Program". Hair should be a minimum of 9" (23cm) in length. Do not braid your hair

### **Acceptable Hair Must Be: Hair swept off the floor is unusable!**

- in a ponytail, bundled with ties or elastics at both ends (not loose and not braided)
- at least 8" in length (minimum varies per program)
- clean, dry, untreated hair (not permed or coloured)
- mailed in a padded envelope
- hair, not used to make a wig, will not be returned

Please visit the [Canadian Cancer Society](http://www.cancer.ca) (CCS) website under *Hair Donations* to find a location in other areas. It is not possible to meet the recipients of the finished wigs. Include your name and address in the envelope, acknowledgements may be issued.