

Meet Christine

CSPA Board Member, Co-Chair



Christine Butler

Municipal Councillor, Conception Bay South, Newfoundland and Labrador
Community Volunteer and Advocate
Retired Public Servant

Why did you get involved with CSPA?

CSPA was seeking new board members, specifically from the East Coast of Canada. Being from Newfoundland and Labrador, and having a rare skin condition (ichthyosis), I submitted my application as I was very interested in furthering the objectives of CSPA. I thought this would be a way to further educate people about skin conditions and treatments and to share information and provide support. I have been involved, through social media, with many groups that provide support to ichthyosis patients. I attended the first Canadian patient forum in Toronto (2015) hosted by FIRST (Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types). I, along with a couple of very dedicated friends from this forum, set up a Canadian Ichthyosis social media page, and we, along with assistance from dedicated people in the field, including CSPA, organized a 2019 patient forum.

Volunteering is part of my makeup! I have been involved in various organizations for over 40 years. Volunteering with CSPA benefits me as I learn more about skin conditions, pharmaceutical companies and medications. Bottom line for me is I want to help others — it's a good feeling!

What do you perceive as outcomes of your involvement?

Further educating skin patients and being a part of a proactive group of concerned people who want to make access to information, medication and resources easier to all across Canada. Also, as a board, to learn from each other—as we all bring our own unique expertise and background—and to be open and understanding to all. Not to sound self-serving but being a part of this board has given me a better understanding of patient care assistance programs from pharmaceutical companies; through my dermatologist, I have now been accepted into one such program for treatment of my additional condition, eczema.

Why would you tell others that they should get involved with CSPA?

Being involved in CSPA means you will be learning about skin and other related conditions and about the process for coverage of medication. If you want to help others while furthering your knowledge, this is a great way to do so! It is very organized with a board and executive and sub-committees. You will also have the opportunity to meet the board members in person, once a year, which is always beneficial. CSPA board meetings are bi-monthly, via Zoom, so it does not matter where you live.