



## WHO HAS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS?

Anyone can be born with NF. It is equally prevalent across the world and is not limited by any gender, racial, social or economic boundaries. **You probably know someone with NF.**

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Be supportive and understanding of people with NF
- Go to [tumourfoundation.ca](http://tumourfoundation.ca) and learn more about the types of NF and the different ways people can be affected
- Donate to NF programs and research
- Volunteer and get involved with your local NF event

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

NF research is on the forefront of the biomedical revolution. NF research benefits everyone including the millions of individuals who are affected by cancer, brain tumours, and learning disabilities. While we are on the verge of important breakthroughs, much work remains to be done in the battle against NF.

# support NF RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

The Tumour Foundation of BC empowers the NF community through support and educational programming, promoting awareness, and funding local research initiatives, including:

- 1:1 support
- NF Support Line 1-888-342-4175
- Annual educational symposium
- Online support & informational videos
- Resource guides
- !NSP!RE magazine
- Bursaries for post-secondary education
- Annual run/walk for NF awareness

The Tumour Foundation of BC relies on donations from corporations, foundations and individuals to keep its programs running.

The children and adults with NF need your support, so please give what you can — whether it's your time, money, wisdom, or simply by spreading the word. Because NF research also benefits those without NF, the support you give will eventually help someone you love.



**Tumour  
Foundation**  
of BC

**EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH NF**

[tumourfoundation.ca](http://tumourfoundation.ca) | [f tumourbc](https://www.facebook.com/tumourbc) | [t tumourbc](https://twitter.com/tumourbc)



## WHAT IS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS?

Neurofibromatosis (NF) is an umbrella name for three distinct complex genetic disorders: Neurofibromatosis Type 1 and Type 2, and Schwannomatosis. These disorders are highly variable, unpredictable and progressive, and share the common manifestation of **tumour growth.**

The tumours associated with NF can cause blindness, deafness, learning disabilities, and some people are severely affected by their symptoms.

## HOW COMMON IS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS?

NF1 affects one in 3,000 people. NF2 affects approximately one in 25,000 births, and Schwannomatosis affects one in 40,000. NF affects all races and genders equally.

## IS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS CONTAGIOUS?

No. NF is a genetic disorder. Approximately 50% of NF cases are inherited, and the other 50% are spontaneous mutations (not inherited).



**Tumour  
Foundation**  
of BC

**EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH NF**

[tumourfoundation.ca](http://tumourfoundation.ca)



# Neurofibromatosis has many *faces*



The people pictured here have neurofibromatosis (NF). They have families and friends that love them and they are admired by many. Their hopes and dreams range from the child who wants to be a super hero, to the teenager that wants to be a rock star, to the adult who seeks a life partner. While they will not let neurofibromatosis define them, they deal with the constant reality that they have NF and don't know what difficulties the future may bring.

## Each person is affected differently and faces some or all of these challenges:

- Skin tumours
- Spinal tumours
- Learning disabilities
- Scoliosis
- Seizures
- Motor delays
- Orthopedic issues
- Amputation
- Headaches
- Depression
- Severe pain
- Complete or partial hearing loss
- Cancer
- Internal tumours
- Paralysis
- Precocious puberty
- High blood pressure
- Discrimination
- Facial disfigurement
- Bone deformities
- Speech challenges
- Attention deficit disorder
- Complete or partial loss of sight
- Hydrocephalus
- Loss of balance



The symptoms of NF vary as much as their hopes and dreams.  
**You can help.**



[tumourfoundation.ca](http://tumourfoundation.ca)