



# Carmichael Connection

## November 2017

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### CARMICHAEL ENTERPRISES RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS LTD

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### RESEARCHERS HAVE DEVELOPED A PEN THAT DETECTS CANCER IN SECONDS

**Excerpts from:** Marilisa Racco National Online Journalist, Smart Living Global News <https://globalnews.ca/news/3761735/researchers-have-developed-a-pen-that-detects-cancer-in-seconds/>

Scientists at the University of Texas at Austin and the Baylor College of Medicine have developed a pen that can test cancer tissue on the spot in the operating room, allowing doctors to know immediately if the tissue needs to be removed.

Called the MasSpec Pen, the pen-like handheld device releases a droplet of water on the tissue's surface, attracts biomolecules from the tissue and sucks it back up to test it. It then runs a quick molecular analysis to determine if the tissue is cancerous, and displays either the words "cancer" or "normal" on the corresponding computer. In some cases, it can also tell doctors the specific subtype of the disease.

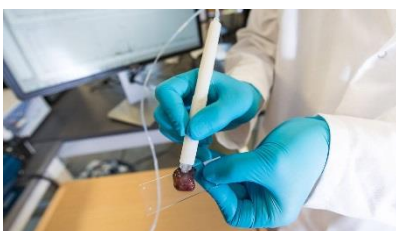
"With MasSpec Pen we're able to test tissue without taking tissue out," James Suliburk, a professor of surgery at Baylor who helped develop the device, said to Smithsonian.com. "Right now, anything we want to test, we have to cut out. And we don't want to cut out normal tissue. This allows us to be much more precise."

The current practice, called frozen section analysis, involves cutting out tissue and sending it to the lab where a pathologist examines it under a microscope to

determine if it's cancerous. The whole process can take more than 30 minutes during which the patient remains sedated on the operating table. And although it's usually accurate, in some cases this technique has been known to be inconclusive or produce false negative results.

So far, the MasSpec Pen has been tested on tissue removed from 253 cancer patients and has a 96 per cent accuracy rate in detecting cancer, including in subtle changes between normal and cancerous tissue. Human trials will begin next year, and the researchers have applied for patents for the technology.

"We're changing up something that has been done the same way in surgery for half a century," Suliburk said. "I think probably Harvey Cushing's invention of the electrocautery almost 100 years ago is the last thing that was as revolutionary as this could be."



#### THE LIVING BENEFIT

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STAFF SPOT LIGHTS



Birthdays ~ November 2017

- Justin           Melody
- Carmela       Miranda
- Rasheed       Selena
- Christine

Staff Draw Winners

OCTOBER:     Noel



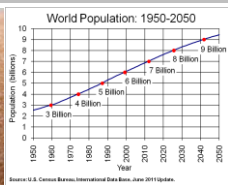
Welcome New Staff & Returns

- Kolawole       Margaret       Rhiana C

RANDOM FAST FACTS



315 entries in Webster's 1996 Dictionary were misspelled?



There are more lifeforms living on your skin than there are people on the planet!

OOPS!

If we have missed anyone off the Staff Spotlights please contact the office so we may correct in the next issue. Thank you!



THE LIVING LIFE BENEFIT

Submitted by: Carmela Taylor, Executive Administrator/Co-owner

Excerpts from: Benefit Brief, the newsletter for the clients and friends of Dupuis Langen

The living life benefit sometimes called a life advance or life loan allows a terminally ill plan member access to funds they may otherwise not have available to them. It is a type of loan most group life insurance policies have available. It will allow a plan member with a life expectancy under a predefined time (usually under 12 months) to collect a portion of their life benefit while they are living.

**What is it? How does it work?** A plan member can take a portion of their group life benefit while living if terminally ill with a life expectancy under predefined period. The final life benefit paid to the beneficiary is reduced by the loan amount and any accrued interest.

- How it can help?**
- Personal credit score is not required as with other types of loans
  - No restrictions on how the money is spent. The member can use it to pay medical bills, take a final trip, etc.
  - Interest is paid from the final benefit paid to the beneficiary. The member will not have to worry about repaying the loan or interest.

**What to consider as a member diagnosed with a terminal illness:**

- Taking a life advance will mean a decreased benefit to your beneficiary.
- Check if it will affect any other financial assistance you are already receiving.
- If you live longer than the required life expectancy you may be required to pay back any advance payment including interest.

Submitting a request for a living life benefit is something that should not be left last minute. The plan member and carrier will need time to get all the medical information to confirm the illness and life expectancy. Although it is a difficult discussion to have it is rewarding to be able to help in an otherwise helpless circumstance. The plan member doesn't necessarily have to be on disability to be diagnosed with a terminal illness, it can be sudden and unexpected.

It is a time sensitive situation, be proactive.

- Confirm with your plan administrator beneficiary designations have been made and are up to date and confirm original forms are on file.

This is your life and your family's. For more information on this benefit contact Dupuis Langen Group, 1-888-397-6390 Toll-free.

Credit: - Benefit Brief, the newsletter for the clients and friends of Dupuis Langen

<https://www.livestrong.org/we-can-help/insurance-and-financial-assistance/converting-life-insurance-into-income>

# STAFF CONTEST

Submitted by: Mike Taylor, Executive Director

Time to exercise those beautiful brains out there in a different way. We are looking to revise our company mission statement in a way that incorporates the principles of trauma informed practice and mindfulness. Start researching and get creative.

Enter as an individual or gather some co-workers to collaborate using the strengths of your teams.

The winning submission (no pun intended) will receive a **\$300 gift card to a local restaurant.**

**Deadlines for Mission Statement submissions will be November 30, 2017.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

It is the statement of the role by which an organization intends to serve its stakeholders.(what is our business?).

It describes what an organization does, who it serve and what makes an organization unique.

It explains the reasons for firms existence, why and where the organization is operating and thus it provides frame work within which the strategy are formulated.

When developing a **mission statement**, it should be seen that the following questions are answered:

- What do we do today?
- For whom do we do it?
- What is the benefit?



## UP COMING EVENTS



### TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

November 14-20, 2017

<https://www.glaad.org/transweek>



### CARF Canada

CARF Canada Employment and Community Services, Behavioural Health, and Child and Youth Services  
202 Webinar

Thursday, November 2, 2017  
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Eastern Time

<http://www.cvent.com/events/carf-canada-employment-and-community-services-behavioural-health-and-child-and-youth-services-202-we/event-summary-5f23b270c0c544bd856afd7f9ff69d54.aspx>



### TURN BACK CLOCKS

November 5, 2017

## DRUG TESTING STRIPS CAN HELP PREVENT FENTANYL OVERDOSES

Excerpts from: By John Rieti, CBC News Posted: Aug 22, 2017

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/fentanyl-detection-kits-1.4257610>

Toronto harm reduction workers hope drug testing strips can help prevent fentanyl overdoses  
Markham biotechnology company making kits says demand is growing every day.

At the overdose prevention site in Moss Park, harm reduction workers will soon have another tool to help drug users avoid fatal overdoses — test strips able to detect the presence of fentanyl.

Zoe Dodd, who volunteers at the site, says someone is donating test strips to the site and they'll be used as soon as they arrive.

"We have a toxic drug supply," Dodd told CBC Radio's Here and Now.

At the same time, she said, "we know that people will not stop taking drugs."

While many drug users may still take fentanyl-laced products, even after a positive test, there's hope that knowing that the powerful opioid is mixed in with their drugs may prompt them to use more cautiously, or at one of two supervised injection sites now operating in the city.

Dodd says the tests will also give harm reduction workers a clearer picture of what drugs are going around, allowing them to provide more warnings to users.

Harm reduction workers in Vancouver, where some 232 people have died after overdosing in 2017 surpassing last year's total — have already been using the strips. Toronto Public Health, however, isn't using the test strips at its supervised injection site at this time, a spokesperson confirmed in an email. On its first day, seven people used the facility.

BTNX, a Markham-based biotechnology company, makes the test strips, which look a lot like pregnancy tests.

CEO Iqbal Sunderani told Radio-Canada the tests were originally intended for doctors, so they could ensure their patients were taking their prescribed pain medication by testing their urine. That changed when the opioid crisis worsened and there was more demand to test drugs themselves for fentanyl, by dissolving a small amount of it into a solution.

Harm reduction workers were some of the first people asking for it, Sunderani said.

"They can use it to meet the challenge of this epidemic, to see if they can save lives," he said.

The test isn't perfect and can produce false negatives — "that's a big concern to us," Sunderani said — but it is sensitive enough to detect many fentanyl analogs, including carfentanyl.

Nazlee Maghsoudi, of the International Centre for Science in Drug Policy, said while there are more advanced ways of testing drugs out there, the strips offer a fast method that does work in the real world.

"They are quite important," she said.

Carmichael Connection

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Martin Place ~ Outreach Home ~ Sherbourne Home ~ Nim Nim House ~