

# Canadian Health Facts

In honour of Canada's 150th, these facts celebrate Canadian health achievements

Geoffrey Auchinleck created BloodTrack: an advanced blood transfusion management system.



Photo: Robin Winsor

Robin Winsor developed the world's first digital x-ray imaging technology.



Photo: www.preeclampsia.org

Dr. Vito Forte of Toronto invented the OtoSim: a simulated silicone ear teaching tool to help medical students learn to more accurately diagnose ear conditions before working with patients.



Dusanka Filipovic patented the Blue Box technology, which eliminates emissions of CFCs from refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.



Photo: www.univcan.ca

Dr. Phil Gold of Montreal designed the first and most widely used blood test for the diagnosis of certain types of cancer.

Dr. Jean Dussault of Quebec formulated a method of testing infants for congenital hypothyroidism, thus saving children from irreversible mental disabilities.

Brent King of Calgary invented the SPIDER Limb Positioner, allowing a surgeon to position a patient's limb for better operating positions.

Walter Harris Carlow, a Canadian veteran, invented the first wheelchair accessible bus as a quadriplegic.



Photo: www.canadiandesignresource.ca

The egg carton was invented by Joseph Coyle of Smithers, BC.

Dr. Adolfo de Bold of Ottawa identified a heart hormone, ANF, which improved the treatment of high blood pressure.

Dr. Frank Gunston of Manitoba pioneered Total Knee Arthroplasty: total knee replacement. It's one of the world's most used operations.

John Hopps invented the cardiac pacemaker.

Maude Abbott was a Canadian physician and a world expert on congenital heart disease. In 1936, she wrote the Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease. In 1994, she was posthumously inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Yves Potvin of Quebec invented the world's first veggie hot dog.

James Fraser Mustard of Toronto published the first clinical trial showing that Aspirin could prevent heart attacks and strokes.

Dr. Robert Burrell of Calgary invented Acticoat, a nanocrystalline silver coated dressings used in clinical practice to prevent life threatening infections and promote wound healing. Acticoat is the world's first commercial therapeutic application of nanotechnology. Burrell is also the lead inventor on 290 patents.

Dr. Henry Luo of Kitchener invented AntiShock technology to combat discomfort associated with loud noises that impact those with hearing aids.

In 1944, Oswald Avery of Nova Scotia proved that isolated DNA is the material of which genes and chromosomes are made



Tom Van de Weide of Edmonton developed the Comfort Plus Anti-Fatigue Mat which minimizes the fatigue experience by workers who stand in stationary positions for prolonged periods of time.

Ernest McCulloch and James Till proved the existence of stem cells in 1957.

In 1913, John G. Fitzgerald became an associate professor at the University of Toronto where he prepared Canada's first locally-made rabies vaccine. In 1914, he produced diphtheria vaccines, and distributed them free of charge.

Ronald Worton identified the gene mutation connected to Duchenne muscular dystrophy.



Photo: www.cdn.bestadvisor.com



Dr. Feindel  
Photo: McGill



Torchia + Tyc  
Photo: Getty Images



Photo: Armand Frappier Fdn

Armand Frappier was instrumental in the fight against tuberculosis in Canada, and was one of the first researchers to confirm the safety and usefulness of the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin vaccine.

Clarke Fraser was Canada's first medical geneticist, one of the creators of the discipline in North America.

William Feindel of Nova Scotia acquired the first CAT and MRI/S units in Canada, and then developed the world's first PET system to detect brain tumours and stroke. He then developed the first surgical cure for patients with epilepsy.

Lance Matthews, an Ontario farmer, invented a hands-free crutch for people who have non-weight bearing, lower leg injuries or disabilities.

Charles Brenton Huggins discovered that hormones could be used to control the spread of some cancers.

Dr. Mark Torchia and Richard Tyc invented the NeuroBlate System which uses a laser-probe inserted into the brain to heat and kill tumour cells. The procedure is conducted in an MRI machine, and avoids damaging healthy brain tissue.



Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw

Calvin Stiller helped pioneer the use of ciclosporin to help stop rejection of transplanted tissue. His research also showed that Type I Diabetes was an immune disorder.

Dr. Harold Jennings spent nearly 25 years researching and developing the world's first synthetic vaccine that protects infants against Group C meningitis - the most common form of the disease to strike youngsters.

Elizabeth Bagshaw of Ontario was one of Canada's first female doctors and was the medical director of the first birth control clinic in Canada.

Peter Macklem of Kingston pioneered the study of small airway physiology in the lungs and demonstrated the early lung damage caused by smoking.