



### Project Update

Phase 1 data is under review in collaboration with our patient partners. Phase 2 survey and protocol has been developed and approved for ethics in Winnipeg and Calgary. Halifax and Ottawa are seeking ethics approval. The survey is currently being piloted in Winnipeg and we will begin conducting the survey this month. Check out our new The Triple I website <http://betterkidneycare.ca>.

### Next Steps

After all sites are granted ethical approval and the survey has been pilot-tested in Winnipeg and adjusted as necessary, it will be rolled out in HD units in Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Ottawa, Quebec and BC. The collaboration with patient partners and an Indigenous research assistant provides an invaluable perspective and insight at every stage of the research assuring a relevant, inclusive and culturally-sensitive approach to the research.

### Meet Patient Partner, George Jeffrey Fontaine

Mr. George Jeffrey Fontaine was born in 1961 in Brandon Manitoba and is a citizen of the Sagkeeng First Nation with maternal ties to Sandy Bay First Nation, both in Manitoba. The eldest of five children, George travelled with his parents living in many parts of Canada settling back in Winnipeg in the mid-'70s.

George's schooling varied due to the many moves across Canada and included a couple of years with the federal Indian Day School at Sandy Bay First Nation. After finishing Grade 11 and spending two years at Assiniboine Community College, George set out into the labour force.

Years later, George trained at the RCMP Depot in Regina, training to become a Constable with the RCMP division in Manitoba. After a few years, George left the force, finding his way to El Paso, Texas where he trained as a heavy equipment and transport operator and began his long career as a Class 1 Long Haul driver. During his career, George saw most, if not all, of the USA and all Canadian provinces.

George's family life includes being a father to two daughters and a grandfather to eight grandchildren. His children live close by, and he spends as much time as possible visiting and helping his daughters.



Working with his hands, mechanically inclined, building and fixing and repairing things are the main hobbies George partakes in. Whenever possible, George always accepts invitations to go hunting, fishing, camping and hiking.

In 1999, George was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes and in 2009 was further diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that resulted in major surgery. In 2015, due to kidney disease, George began receiving dialysis with the Renal Care Program. George has volunteered as a Patient Partner with the Can-SOLVE Research Program, so he can contribute toward creating better services and information for patients and caregivers.

### Pilot Project highlight: Voice-HD Web App

The Voice-HD pilot study is evaluating the usability of a web app to enhance communication between kidney patients and their kidney doctors. The Voice-HD web application (app), which was launched earlier this year at HD dialysis units in Edmonton and Winnipeg, has undergone several upgrades over the past few months for performance and ease of use. The web app has been tested by both patients and doctors; 77 patients and 20 care providers have been enrolled in this pilot study. As the dialysis population has been underrepresented in studies of mobile health, an understanding of the preferences and unique needs of this population will be of interest to a broad audience.

The initial phase of web app testing will be wrapping up later this month. Feedback from patients and doctors who used the app will guide improvements to the app. The second phase of testing, using the improved Voice-HD web app, is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2019.

For more information about Triple I projects or ongoing kidney research please visit Can-SOLVE CKD website at: <https://cansolveckd.ca/>

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