



News Canada

Cycling for Huntington's cure

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Kevin Glenney scuba dives, has a pilot's licence and a ski-instructor certificate.

But the Dunnville, Ont. native decided to use a bike in his bid to help find a cure for Huntington's disease.

The 36-year-old aerospace engineer quit his job to bicycle solo from Vancouver to Cape Spear, NL. He left June 4 and rode through Toronto yesterday, hoping to finish in early September.

"Huntington's disease is something that has profoundly impacted my family," said Glenney. "Both my aunt and uncle have advanced stages of it and my grandfather and great-grandfather suffered early deaths because of it.

"In January this year my dad shared with us for the first time about how Huntington's disease has affected his family. It was the first time I heard my dad talk about Huntington's disease because of the fear he's had of passing it on to me and my sisters," said Glenney, 36.

That's when Glenney decided he would ride his bike across Canada to help raise awareness and funds for research on behalf of the Huntington's Society of Canada.

To date, Glenney has clocked 5,250 kilometres of his 8,300-km journey and has raised \$14,217 toward his goal of \$30,000.

Huntington's disease is an inherited genetic brain disorder that causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. It eventually leads to complete incapacitation and death. The disease also has an emotional impact on the individual, causing depression. The symptoms appear around age 35 and once you're symptomatic, you can die within 15 years. A child born to a parent with Huntington's disease has a 50% chance of sharing the same fate. About one in every 10,000 people are affected by Huntington's disease, whether they are at risk, a caregiver or know someone diagnosed with it.

There is no cure or treatment for the disease.

Huntington's Society of Canada CEO and executive director Bev Heim-Myers said "funds raised will help provide badly needed services to families dealing with this disease and help to fund research towards symptomatic relief and eventually a cure."

For more information about Glenney's ride or to support the journey, log onto www.kevinglenney.com or call 1-800-998-7398.