

Hi Jay,

We have a great story for *This is BC*. Our charity – [West Coast Kids Cancer Foundation](#) (WCK) – supports hundreds of families across B.C. as they navigate childhood cancer and blood disorders, meeting needs that go far beyond the medical. To make everyday life easier, we show up with practical support like meals, connection programs for kids and siblings, resource guides, and more.

But we want to share with you how an incredible boy named [Cameron](#) brought to life a WCK program that has helped hundreds of children who are on treatment, and how local clothing brand [Whistle and Flute](#) (based in Victoria) is now helping to continue his legacy.

While on treatment, Cameron problem solved with his nurse Carly to come up with the very first WCK Port Shirt – a t shirt with a specially placed zipper that means a child or teen no longer has to remove their shirt and expose their whole tummy for treatment. This provides dignity and a regained sense of control and empowerment when getting treatment, such as chemotherapy, through a port-a-cath.

Thanks to Whistle & Flute donations of comfortable bamboo shirts, and a dedicated team of WCK volunteers who sew in each zipper to customize each shirt, we sent out 150 adapted shirts to kids on treatment in 2023, and 98 so far in 2024.

Here's what we've heard from families:

“Port Shirts are the best thing anyone can think of. My kid loved it. We used to take off his shirt to access his port, and he wasn't comfortable. I started taking a blanket, but it slides off easily. The Port Shirt made it so easy!” – Parent

“This is an amazing resource and their willingness to do this for our daughter—these are the little things that mean so much.” – Parent

“It's so helpful and convenient, especially with treatment schedules every week. Whenever the nurse comes in, my son is already opening up his Port Shirt for the treatment. I don't even need to help him.” – Parent

Cameron's mom, Sharon Bulger, is available for an interview to talk about what it means to see Cameron's idea flourish and help so many other children. Cameron very sadly passed away in 2020. Sharon says, "So much was lost that day but WCK did not leave." Sharon now serves on the WCK Board of Directors and has seen the Port Shirts program grow significantly. She adds:

"Cameron's desire was to see all kids have access to these shirts, without having to do the legwork to design them and find someone to sew them. He would be supremely happy that WCK is taking this on for families. Providing the opportunity for kids to feel more comfortable

while having their port or lines accessed may seem like a small thing, but oncology kids are accessed regularly and can be hooked up to lines for hours. These shirts allow kids to play and engage without worrying about how much of their bodies are exposed."

We also have a mom and son, Hema and Aadi, who are happy to be interviewed about the difference Port Shirts made to Aadi's time on treatment. Aadi says, "The person who made hospital gowns was smart, but the person who made Port Shirts is *genius*. I remember zipping my Port Shirt and feeling mighty."

From Cameron to our sewing volunteers and Whistle & Flute, we want to celebrate the caring community that is making a huge difference to kids' treatment experiences. We're biased, but we think it's a wonderful story to share with your audience!

Many thanks,

Hannah Lind