BREAST CANCER develops in the cells of the breast tissue. When these cells change or no longer behave normally, they may lead to benign tumours (non-cancerous). In some cases, the changes may cause malignant breast tumours (cancerous).

**THE DATA**

BREAST CANCER is the 3rd most common cancer in Canada

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime

About 26,300 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017

Breast cancer is the #1 cancer in women

83% occur in women aged 50+

**RISK FACTORS**

- Age
- Family history
- BRCA gene mutations
- Reproductive status (e.g., late menopause)
- Hormone exposures (e.g., estrogen)
- Alcohol
- Obesity

**SCREENING AND DETECTION**

- 70% of breast cancer cases are diagnosed early in their development, at stage I and II*
- 87% of Canadian women diagnosed with breast cancer survive 5 or more years

Routine breast cancer screening with mammography every 2 to 3 years is recommended for women aged 50 to 74. Screening guidelines are available from the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care.

For more facts about breast cancer visit: www.Canada.ca and Search: breast cancer

Like us on Facebook: Public Health Agency of Canada
Follow us on Twitter: @PHAC_GC

Data Sources: Canadian Cancer Statistics 2017; Statistics Canada, Canadian Cancer Registry CANSIM Table 103-0554; Canadian Partnership Against Cancer Cancerview.ca – 2017 Cancer System Performance Report.

* Cancer stage distribution is based on eight provinces and does not include Quebec or Ontario.