

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2016

ePACT Partners with First Cause Ride Supporting B.C. First Responders Addressing the Epidemic of PTSD and Occupational Stress Injuries

Vancouver, British Columbia – ePACT Network is honored to announce its partnership with the First Cause Ride Fundraiser, supporting awareness and program development for PTSD and Occupational Stress Injuries for British Columbia’s First Responders and their families.

Studies have shown that 86.9% of First Responders reported having post-traumatic stress reactions. Firefighters, Paramedics, Nurses, Police, Border Services and other frontline medical and peace officers are twice as likely to develop PTSD. Yet currently, there is no widely accessible and specialized treatment program in B.C. for these emergency service providers.

The First Cause Ride is launching an innovative ride fundraiser to raise \$100,000 for the development of the First Responder Kelty Online Therapy Service. This unique web-based treatment program will be created by the Mental Health Professionals at Vancouver General Hospital, promoting early and late diagnoses for the treatment of occupational stress injuries and PTSD.

“As First Responders support and protect us, they’re repeatedly exposed to traumatic events”, Nils Gorseth, Executive Director of Vancouver FireFighter Charities explains. “We’ve had far too many hurt or lost because of this. How we can expect them to do their best if they’re facing mental health challenges? They need our help. First Cause is bringing the general public and First Responders together to create that change.”

On August 20th, the First Cause Ride will take cyclists from Vancouver to Surrey in support of this important cause. Riders of all levels are invited to join this recreational, yet “friendly competitive” road ride, as volunteers and staff raise funds and awareness and “help the helpers”. ePACT is proud to partner with the First Cause Ride, helping those who have dedicated their lives to supporting Canadian communities.

“Our team is constantly inspired by First Responders - their commitment, dedication and passion in helping others,” Christine Sommers, ePACT CEO explains. “Partnering with the First Cause Ride is just a small way we can give back to this amazing community and show our appreciation for everything they do. It’s an incredible event, an extremely worthy cause, and we are honored to be a part of it.”

With ePACT, First Cause event organizers will be prepared to deal with any unexpected situation, as volunteers and cyclists securely share critical health and contact information through the system. If anyone requires first-aid, or if First Cause needs to send updates or critical alerts to riders, staff and volunteers, medical data and communications are readily available through ePACT on smartphone, tablet or computer.

The First Cause Ride has three distances, making the event accessible for any rider - the “Rookie Ride” is 32 KM, “Summit Challenge” is 83 KM and “Elite Ride” totals 140 KM.

About First Cause

The First Cause Ride is a cycling fundraiser aimed at uniting civilians and BC's First Responder agencies (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Medical, Sheriffs, Border Services, etc.) around PTSD and Occupational Stress

Injuries awareness and program development. First Cause Ride is working to raise funds to support the development of an early recognition, support and treatment program tailor-made for First Responders and their families. More details are available at www.firstcauseride.ca or on social media at @FirstCauseRide.

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About ePACT Network Ltd.

ePACT is changing the way the world prepares for life's emergencies. As your emergency network, ePACT better connects and protects your family, organization and community through any crisis. ePACT Network Ltd. is based in North Vancouver, British Columbia. The company was founded by Christine Sommers and Kirsten Koppang Telford in 2012 after speaking with survivors of the 2011 Japan earthquake and tsunami. The ePACT team is made up award-winning entrepreneurs, technologists and usability experts, committed to helping North American communities better manage any crisis.

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