



# Dense Breasts Canada May 2022 Update

## Table of Contents

1. Our first journal article has been published!!
2. Talkin' Dense Breasts and more...Podcast: Women's Health Interrupted
3. Update on DBC's provincial advocacy
4. Update on DBC's federal advocacy
5. DBC co-founder Jennie Dale speaks at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Society of Breast Imaging
6. Webinar recording now available: Breast Cancer Screening and Surveillance: Where We Are and the Way Forward
7. Meet Meaghan



## Our First Journal Article Has Been Published!!

DBC's Jennie Dale, Michelle Di Tomaso, and Victoria Gay are excited to announce [Marrying Story with Science - The Impact of Outdated and Inconsistent Breast Cancer Screening Practices in Canada](#) has been published in *Current Oncology*. Told through the stories of women with lived experiences of late-stage breast cancer and supported by the latest scientific evidence, this paper explores the impact of outdated breast cancer screening practices on the lives of Canadian women. This article demonstrates the need for the medical community and policy makers to take responsibility and implement optimal breast screening practices so that breast cancer can be found early. Sincerest thanks to the women who shared their stories of late detection, misinformation, and dismissal. No woman in Canada should needlessly face a later stage diagnosis.

[Read Now](#)



### **Talkin' Dense Breasts and more.... Podcast: Women's Health Interrupted**

Dr. Paula Gordon and DBC co-founder, Jennie Dale, chat about dense breasts and more with host Rebecca Baron on UBC's podcast "Women's Health Interrupted."

[Listen Now](#)



## Update on DBC's provincial advocacy

**Great news from Saskatchewan:** Saskatchewan has committed to allowing women to self-refer for a mammogram in their 40s, starting in 2024/2025. They'll join four other jurisdictions offering self-referral at 40 (BC, PEI, NS, YT). Elsewhere, women need a requisition. Saskatchewan will also be telling all women their breast density starting in 2023. Currently, they're only informing Category D.

**Yukon:** Good news! Yukon has committed to density notification, starting this Fall, for all women. They will join the other jurisdictions telling all women: BC, NB, MB, PEI, NS, and AB.

**Ontario election commitments:** We asked all parties and candidates the following question: If elected, will you allow women to self-refer for a mammogram starting at age 40?

Here are the responses received:

**NDP:** "ONDP government will support self-referral of women over 40 for mammograms. This will not only make cancer care more equitable but also make resources of our public healthcare network better utilized by reducing the number of severe breast cancer cases."

**Greens:** "Yes."

**Liberals:** An Ontario Liberal Government will be guided by evidence in making any healthcare related decisions. We will commit to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the medical evidence - led by healthcare professionals and including cancer organizations - to determine any changes to cancer screening.

**Conservatives:** There has been no response.

The election is June 2, 2022. We will continue to advocate for density notification for all women, not just Category D, and self-referral at 40 with whoever forms the next Ontario government.



# UPDATE

## On Federal Advocacy

[densebreastscanada.ca](http://densebreastscanada.ca)

### Updates on DBC's Federal Advocacy

We're excited about two invitations to present to the federal government on our advocacy issues.

**Standing Committee on Health:** MP Don Davies has invited DBC to present to the Federal Standing Committee on Health this November. The Health Committee agreed to MP Davies' motion to study women's health. MP Davies wrote:

"Women's health has been understudied and underrepresented in Canadian public policy discussions for far too long. As a result, our health system has failed to address gender bias in research, education, leadership and interventions. I look forward to working together with experts and organizations, such as Ovarian Cancer Canada, the Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative, **Dense Breasts Canada**, The Endometriosis Network Canada, Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights, the Women's Health Research Institute, and many others to advance gender health equity in Canada."

**Liberal Women's Caucus:** Dr. Paula Gordon, Jennie Dale, Annie Slight and Jennifer Quaid had a great call with the chair of the Liberal women's caucus, MP Emmanuella Lambropoulos. The topic: the need to revise dangerous breast screening guidelines. The response: MP Lambropoulos recognized the importance of the issue and offered to host a panel on women's health and have DBC present to women's caucus. Grateful for the opportunity to inform the women's caucus of the issue.

**Update Health Minister's Office:** Jennie Dale and Dr. Paula Gordon met with Joanna Lam, who holds the women's health file in Health Minister's Duclos' office. We discussed the fact there are no breast cancer screening experts on the Task Force and hence flawed studies are being used to make Canadian breast screening guidelines. She informed us that an audit will be taking place this fiscal year, looking at the Task Force's composition and mandate. Advocacy continues.

If you're interested in helping to advocate or raise awareness, please get in touch with us. We'd love your help.



Canadian Society of Breast Imaging  
Société canadienne de l'imagerie mammaire



Département de radiologie  
Department of Radiology

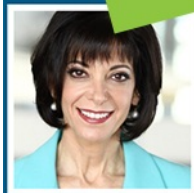
## Annual Scientific Meeting: Multidisciplinary Updates in Breast Imaging

Virtual Meeting: May 28, 2022



### Co-founder Jennie Dale speaks at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Society of Breast Imaging

DBC's co-founder, Jennie Dale, recently had the privilege of speaking to radiologists, technologists, and oncologists at the Canadian Society of Breast Imaging's Annual Scientific Conference. She elaborated on DBC's recently published journal article, DBC's survey results and also explored how current policies in each province hinder the early detection of breast cancer. Grateful to Drs. Shiela Appavoo and Jean Seely for including the patient voice at the conference. Thank you to Dr. Gordon for joining in on the Q and A. Recording of the presentation will be shared once available.



### Breast Cancer Screening and Surveillance:

Where we are and the way forward

Presented by:  
Dr. Paula Gordon &  
Jennie Dale

Thursday, April 28nd, 2022 1-2 P.M. ET



## Webinar recording now available: Breast Cancer Screening and Surveillance: Where We Are and the Way Forward.

We enjoyed doing this webinar and now have the recording. DBC's medical advisor, Dr. Gordon, discussed optimal screening strategies for the early detection of breast cancer. Jennie Dale, looked at the inequities in breast cancer screening practices in Canada. Thank you to the Canadian Cancer Survivor Network for hosting.

[Watch Now](#)



### Meet Meaghan

Our heartfelt thanks to Meaghan Dickinson for sharing her story with us. Meaghan was diagnosed at age 41, stage 4, only 15 months after a clear mammogram. We're inspired by women who want to help educate other women and we are grateful to Meaghan for thinking of others. Our sincerest thanks as well to Mary Ellen Cavett, videographer, who has put in countless hours in producing videos for our patient series. You can read more about Meaghan's journey at [stupidboobs.ca](http://stupidboobs.ca). Please watch and share.

[Watch Now](#)

Join our dedicated team of volunteers to help make change



Follow us on social media

Visit our websites to learn more about dense breasts

and optimal screening:  
[densebreastscanada.ca](https://densebreastscanada.ca)  
[mybreastscreening.ca](https://mybreastscreening.ca)

A Design

Thank you to volunteer Amanda Theyers for all the help in producing this newsletter.

[View her LinkedIn profile](#)

© 2022 Dense Breasts Canada

This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}  
You received this email because you are registered with Dense Breasts Canada

[Unsubscribe here](#)

