



News Release

Senator Jane Cordy, Nova Scotia
Senator James Cowan, Nova Scotia

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For immediate release

Nova Scotia senators support ovarian cancer research at Lady Ball Halifax

Ottawa – Senators James Cowan and Jane Cordy helped raise money for ovarian cancer research Thursday night at an event celebrating “ladyballs” — a cheeky term for ovaries that is also a nod to women’s grit and determination.

The two senators played key roles in Ovarian Cancer Canada’s The Lady Ball Halifax, a fashion show fundraiser expected to raise over \$150,000 in support of advocacy, research and awareness campaigns.

Ovarian cancer kills five Canadian women every day. It is known as the silent killer because its symptoms are not well recognized and there is no screening test. Ovarian Cancer Canada’s ladyballs campaign has been raising awareness about the need for research and prevention.

Senator Cowan spoke at the Lady Ball reception about his work in Parliament to protect Canadians with a genetic predisposition to diseases like ovarian cancer. Fifteen to twenty percent of all ovarian cancer cases are known to have a genetic connection. If a woman knows she has this genetic predisposition, there are steps she can take to reduce the chance that ovarian cancer actually develops.

Senator Cowan’s public bill — which has passed the Senate and first reading in the House of Commons — would allow patients to keep genetic test results private so that they can’t be used, for example, to deny insurance coverage. His bill would encourage Canadians to seek crucial genetic information without fear. It is strongly supported by Ovarian Cancer Canada.

Senator Cordy strutted the catwalk as one of the role models — local leaders with ladyballs — alongside other powerful women like world champion curler Colleen Jones, Mount Saint Vincent University President Ramona Lumpkin and Nova Scotia Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab.

Quotes

“I am proud to stand up beside such an inspiring group of women at the Lady Ball Halifax and support Ovarian Cancer Canada with their quest to help those of us with ladyballs.”

- Senator Jane Cordy

“The work done by Ovarian Cancer Canada is crucial to the health and well-being of all women in Canada. Knowledge is power, and I am honoured to work closely with Ovarian Cancer Canada to clear the path so that Canadians can gain knowledge about their genetic makeup, and take action to prevent diseases like ovarian cancer. Raising awareness through events like The Lady Ball Halifax is a critical step.”

- Senator James Cowan

Associated Links

Click to learn more about [The Lady Ball Halifax](#).

Click to learn more about Bill S-201, the [Genetic Non-Discrimination Act](#).

The Senate of Canada is on Twitter [@SenateCA](#).

Senator Cordy tweets from [@SenatorCordy](#); Senator Cowan tweets from [@SenCowan](#).

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