

# SAVTI

Successful Academic and Vocational Transition Initiative

SPRING 2014

# POGO

PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY GROUP OF ONTARIO

FOR KIDS WITH CANCER  
FOR NOW, FOR LIFE.

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SAVTI Counsellors are  
available at your  
POGO AfterCare Clinic  
or in the community.

**If you are interested in  
learning more about  
SAVTI, please visit  
<http://www.pogo.ca/care/savti/>**

To access SAVTI's  
Resource Guide, visit  
[www.pogo.ca/guide/savti.php](http://www.pogo.ca/guide/savti.php)

## If you are a survivor of childhood cancer, SAVTI can help you:

- Identify career options and goals focused on your strengths and skills
- Develop a personal education and/or employment plan
- Facilitate access to education and employment pathways
- Apply for admission to college or university and prepare for employment
- Link with appropriate services and supports within colleges, universities or the community in order to achieve your goals

## SURVIVOR RESOURCES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

### ONLINE

#### POGO for Survivors

In the age of the internet, it's easier than ever to find information on all sorts of topics related to your health. The problem is that it's often difficult to tell which online sources are reliable. POGO for Survivors is an online resource that POGO created for survivors of childhood cancer, which includes information related to fertility, quality of life, late effects, relationships and much more.

You'll find videos and downloadable handouts from POGO's 2011 and 2013 Survivor Conference presentations featuring reliable information from health professionals in the fields of oncology and survivorship.

Visit the Survivor Portal at <http://pogoforsurvivors.wordpress.com/>

Would you like to be notified of future Survivor Conferences? Email Emily Bain at [ebain@pogo.ca](mailto:ebain@pogo.ca) to be added to our mailing list.

### TORONTO

#### ELLICSR

ELLICSR is a health, wellness and survivorship centre run by Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and located in Toronto General Hospital. Most programs and resources at this inclusive space are open to any cancer survivor over the age of 18, as well as to family members, friends and caregivers. Available resources include a library with print material, DVDs and audio books, healthy cooking demonstrations and a monthly Community Connections event which features representatives from cancer related community support organizations.

Some of the clinical education classes are available only to current patients with a Princess Margaret medical record number. To find out more about ELLICSR and which programs are available to you, visit: [www.ellicsr.ca](http://www.ellicsr.ca)

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## What is an accommodation ?

An accommodation is a change that helps a student to overcome or work around his or her disability in order to participate in a set curriculum.

Examples of accommodations in a college or university setting could include:

- Allowing a student who has trouble writing to give answers orally
- Preferential seating based on hearing, vision or mobility needs
- Ability to leave the room when needed
- Tests read aloud
- Extended time on assignments, shorter assignments or simplification of directions

## SURVIVOR RESOURCES – CONT'D

### TORONTO & OTTAWA

#### Rebounders Canada

Rebounders Canada is a registered Canadian charity that offers support and social opportunities to adults who are living with the long-term effects of childhood cancer.

Many Rebounders members are living with side effects of treatment that have resulted in some physical impairment and reduced employment possibilities. By bringing survivors together through regular social gatherings, members are connecting with one another and finding encouragement and friendships not found elsewhere. Rebounders welcomes new members and chapters. Please visit <http://www.rebounders.ca> for the contact information of a representative in your area.

### VARIOUS ONTARIO LOCATIONS

#### POGO AfterCare Clinics

Did you know that the POGO AfterCare Program at Children's Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre just celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary? Here's an excerpt from an article featuring an AfterCare patient's description of her experience:

For Kaeleigh, the care received in the clinic has allowed her to move forward with her life, and realize her dream of being a pediatric oncology nurse at Children's Hospital. ***"I know I survived childhood cancer for a reason, and that is to help other kids who are fighting the disease and give back to the team that has given me so much. I'm happy to be working alongside some of the nurses and doctors who cared for me but most of all, I'm glad that I can help comfort other children who are facing the same fears I faced 12 years ago, and let them know that they are in good hands – now and long into the future."***

-[Click here](#) to read the full article

Attending just one AfterCare Clinic appointment a year could reduce the long-term effects of treatment and help you to stay healthy. These appointments are also important for keeping you aware of current information on cancer and survivorship. POGO AfterCare Clinics are located in Hamilton, Kingston, London, Ottawa and Toronto. Talk to your SAVTI Counsellor or [click here](#) to view or download an AfterCare Clinic brochure, including contact information.

**If you know of a helpful resource in your community and would like to spread the word, please email Emily Bain at [ebain@pogo.ca](mailto:ebain@pogo.ca)**

## What is a modification?

A modification is different from an accommodation. Usually, a modification means a change in the curriculum involving what is being taught to or expected from the student. Unlike accommodations, modifications are not permitted in post-secondary schools.

Examples of modifications could include:

- Reduced homework
- Allowing the student to submit an essay outline rather than a full essay or report.
- Grading based on a pass/fail system

Your school's disability office will work with you to determine what types of accommodations and/or modifications will best suit your needs.

## FEATURED JOB OPPORTUNITY – LONDON, ON

**Title:** Customer Service Representative – Bank of Montreal (BMO)

**Job area:** London, ON

**Description:**

- Are you a person with a disability?
- Do you want to work for a company that values your unique talents and can help you turn your potential into performance?

If you are interested, BMO's Diversity Recruitment Specialist would like to speak with you about Customer Service Representative opportunities at BMO.

Please [click here](#) to view the full job posting and to apply online.

## TORONTO EVENT RECAP: EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP

On May 9, two representatives from Youth Employment Services (YES) came to the POGO office in Toronto to do a workshop on employment and job search skills for SAVTI clients. They provided great information on looking for summer jobs, preparing a strong résumé, networking and disability accommodation and disclosure. Everyone learned a lot, had a good time connecting and enjoyed a delicious pizza lunch together.

YES offers a number of employment related services for youth between the ages of 15-30 and reports an 83% success rate in finding jobs, training, education or business outcomes for youth. The YESAbility program has a special focus on providing vocational support to youth with disabilities.

To learn more, visit <http://www.yes.on.ca/>

## SAVTI AND ALGONQUIN'S CENTRE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (CSD) EVENT RECAP

Three discussion groups were held in the months of February, March, and April at Algonquin College for CSD students who are also SAVTI clients. Attendance was between three to five participants at each group. Sara Jordan, a disabilities counsellor with the CSD and Sarah Brandon, SAVTI Counsellor with POGO, facilitated each group according to the goals of the participants.

The first group was an opportunity for participants to meet each other and gain feedback about what they wanted to focus on in these meetings. The participants also talked about accommodations and how each of their courses and programs were going. We enjoyed lunch together thanks to the CSD. All participants requested that the next group focus on finding employment.

The second group was held in March and Sara Jordan arranged for an Employment Officer from Algonquin to attend the group. She provided five students with a fantastic slide presentation featuring employment application tips, résumé creation advice and interview suggestions. Each participant was provided with individual advice on their respective résumés and was offered follow-up support through Sara's department.

The last group was held mid-April right before exams and a study skills session was requested. Stress balls were provided care of SAVTI to each participant and study strategies were provided by Sara. We enjoyed lunch together and did an informal verbal evaluation with the participants who indicated that they found the groups to be useful and hope to see them offered again in September.

These groups provided opportunities for:

- Participants to meet, socialize and support each other
- Participants to learn new strategies, resources and skills
- Counsellors to check in with clients face-to-face and to learn from the participants how we can support them further

POGO's SAVTI gratefully acknowledges the following support:

### Lead sponsor



### Supporting sponsorship

Kavelman-Fonn Foundation

## Social Events

Stay tuned for others!

Do you have an idea for a social event? Are you interested in participating in a future event?

Contact your SAVTI counsellor with any thoughts you might have!



## Join our mailing list!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, [please click here](#)