



MICHELLE WALSH

THE SHORTEST PATH TO LIBERATION

Saskatoon Company Provides Premier Medical Travel Support

BY MEAGEN THOMAS

It's been a long time since Michelle Walsh has been able to ride the horses on her family's farm in southwest Saskatchewan. Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at 18, Walsh, now 37, began losing feeling in her legs ten years ago. As her MS progressed it forced the one-time flight attendant and rodeo queen to hand in the reins and spend up to 16 hours a day bedridden because there was no treatment for her Secondary Progressive MS. News of a medical breakthrough that relieves MS symptoms gave hope to many, but Canada's healthcare system won't approve or allow the medically-sound procedure to be done here for MS patients.

"The Canadian system says CCSVI isn't a proven treatment but venous angioplasty has been around over 30 years and I know it works...because it's worked for me," Walsh said. Walsh is just one of thousands of Canadian MS sufferers flocking to the U.S., Mexico, Europe and Asia for the revolutionary breakthrough Liberation Procedure. She sought her first treatment in Bulgaria, and her second treatment in the U.S. last year.

When Walsh travelled in 2010 for

treatment, there were no Saskatchewan based companies to help her. Today, there is Global Healthcare Connections, Saskatchewan's most trusted medical travel professionals. Global Healthcare Connections founder Adele Kulyk has personally toured and inspected destination clinics in U.S., Mexico and Asia and is recognized for her expertise as a care facilitator.

"When you have no experience booking your medical travel, having a company arrange everything for you is such a relief," said Walsh. Global Healthcare Connections has partnerships with hospitals and clinics offering treatments specifically for Multiple Sclerosis as well as permanent weight loss surgeries, cosmetic surgeries and dental procedures at costs far below what patients pay for - but have to wait months, even years, for - here in Canada. In many cases, the medical and travel costs are tax deductible, too.

Both Kulyk and Walsh are fellows of the CCSVI Foundation of Canada. They feel it's critically important that MS patients know that there is an effective treatment, and that it is available today.

"Sure, there are going to be Liberation Procedure trials in Saskatchewan but how many people will be in the trial versus the number of people who urgently need it? Time is muscle; the more you wait, the more you deteriorate," Walsh said. "I can feel my legs again, feel my kids kiss me again. I would absolutely travel for treatment again and trust Global Healthcare Connections to get me there and back."



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