

## ***International Connection***

### ***PROSTATE CANCER SURVIVOR FROM IRELAND SHARES HIS THANKS TO THE EMPOWERMENT NETWORK FOR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT***

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**I** am a prostate cancer patient from Kilkenny in Ireland. I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of Prostate Cancer on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021 at age 44 years. I had surgery on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 to remove my Prostate and to deal with the cancer. Unfortunately when I received post surgery results in August 2021 I was told that the Cancer had spread further. This is extremely serious especially with an aggressive disease and I was in despair and did not know where to turn or what to do. I am a father of two young boys (2 and 12) and my future was now very uncertain. I also didn't know what was ahead of me for my cancer journey.

Around this time I did a lot of research and came across The Empowerment Network and read about this support network and all the great work going on. I sent an email to reach out and immediately I had a reply asking if I was interested in a call.

I did a zoom call with Mr Mellve Shahid (kindly set up by Senator Robin Wright-Jones). It was a powerful call and Mellve was so helpful and inspirational. Since then we link by email most weeks and I have been invited and took part in a number of the video calls organised by Mellve and the Empowerment Network. These calls are always so informative and great for a cancer patient like myself to link with others in a similar situation.

Mellve is constantly sending me messages of support and encouragement. I am currently still undergoing treatment and have a battle ahead but at that time in 2021 when I was at a real low, Mellve was there for me as a great support. He became a friend to me instantly and I am extremely grateful. He is a kind gentlemen and very caring, an inspiration for all.

The Empowerment Network is quite unique as there are not many organisations like this out there. As I said I am thousands of miles away in Ireland and I was able to get support from Mellve and this organisation. Mellve did not hesitate in contacting me and we have been in contact ever since and he is always there with messages of support.

Mellve is a special person and if the world had a lot more people like him it would be a much better place.

**Kind regards,  
Brian Egan,  
Kilkenny, Ireland**



*Brian Egan wears robe sent to him from The Empowerment Network*

