



Cheryl Koehn, founder and president of Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE)

Cheryl Koehn is the founder and president of Arthritis Consumer Experts (ACE) and JointHealth™. She is a national arthritis advocate, a community leader and a published author. In November 2000, Cheryl founded ACE and its JointHealth™ family of programs.

As a 18-year survivor of rheumatoid arthritis, Ms. Koehn brings the arthritis consumer's perspective to ACE, and to decision-making processes at government, research institutions, not-for-profit and for-profit organizations across Canada and internationally.

Ms. Koehn has served on provincial and national committees and been a standard bearer for the inclusion of people with arthritis in all decision-making processes related to the field of arthritis. Her remarks from the floor during the final Arthritis 2000 plenary session have been widely recognized as the catalyst for the creation of the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN).

In May 1999, Ms. Koehn became the consumer representative on CAN's management and research and development committee, and was elected chair of its Consumer Advisory Council (CAC). She was re-elected co-chair of this volunteer council in September 2002. She served as a consumer community representative on the Partnerships and Sustainability Committee and along with her Aboriginal colleague, Joyce Greene, spearheaded the development of CAN's Aboriginal Research Initiative, the first of its kind in Canada.

Ms. Koehn's other committee memberships include:

- Consumer Representative, Executive Committee, Alliance for the Canadian Arthritis Program
- Co-Founder and member organization representative, Best Medicines Coalition
- Member organization representative and Chair of the Better Pharmacare Coalition
- Co-chair, Summit on Standards for Arthritis Prevention and Care
- Along with co-authors Dr. John Esdaile and Taysha Palmer, Ms. Koehn authored Rheumatoid Arthritis: PLAN TO WIN, published by Oxford University Press, published in January 2002.