

Young mom trying to put her best foot forward



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

For 29-year-old Jody Veilleux, a first-time mom of a now seven-month-old son, dealing with a disability while raising a young child is a challenge. A neurological disorder following an accident has left Veilleux with a brace on one leg, the limited movement of one arm and a difficulty finding her words when speaking.

"Anyone who knew me before this happened would tell you that I have always been an extremely active person," said Veilleux in an interview this week. "I pride myself on being a positive, upbeat and lively people person who wants nothing more than to lead a normal life with my family," she added.

Jody's disability all began over eight years ago after falling and hitting her head while at work. Initially she picked herself up, dusted herself off and went back to the task at hand thinking very little about the fall being anything of worry. Three days following the incident Jody noticed that she was barely able to move her foot and a month later, had resorted to dragging it when she walked. A trip to a clinic to see her doctor and she was sent to the emergency and was sent on to the Neurologist at the CHUS hospital. This led to a barrage of tests where a spot was found on her brain that had been agitated by the fall. This was enough to send a variety of health issues her way and she has been experiencing difficulties since.

As far as compensation to cover her medical needs, because it is not clear if the spot was caused by the fall or if the spot was there before the fall occurred, she is not eligible for medical coverage. Kind of a chicken or the egg analogy leaving the young mother to explore other means of getting the support and aid she needs. She notes that several bazaar things have occurred since the issue began including searching for her words when talking and all of her French speaking ability. She was perfectly bilingual prior to the ordeal.

Veilleux has gone through a number of treatments including Botox in her arm and leg every three to four months to relieve the stiffness.

"It is hard to explain my situation to people as I am in no pain," she said. "I had surgery done on my brain to test the spot (a biopsy) and it provided no answers. I still have feeling in my arm and leg but just cannot move them properly," she explains.

Veilleux was given the opportunity to try a leg brace that is available that works with the nerves sending shocks to the foot to make it move called the Bioness L300. Through electrical stimulation, the Bioness L300 retrains lower leg muscles, increasing motion and blood circulation and enabling the return to a more normal step. The cost of this equipment is \$8,300 for the leg brace only. The hand equipment is called the Bioness H200 and costs about the same amount.

"I want to live life as a mother with a young son without restrictions," explains Veilleux. "I've had to put my pride aside and now ask for help as I cannot afford either of these braces and I know, having tried it that just the leg brace would help me so much."

Jody is asking for help-Reluctantly- and recognizing that it is just after the holidays and likely a difficult time



COURTESY

Jody Veilleux and her young son

for some financially, she has been encouraged to move forward in telling the public her story. In three days over \$2,500 has been donated thus far.

Anyone interested in supporting the fundraiser to purchase Jody's brace can do so through the website <https://gofund.me/b8255eb2>

NASA delays Artemis II moon mission that includes Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen

The Canadian Press

NASA is delaying the Artemis II moon mission that includes Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen as it works to resolve technical issues with the spacecraft.

The U.S. space agency provided an update Tuesday on the timeline for the upcoming mission around the moon and said Artemis II will be pushed back to September 2025 from its intended launch this November.

A subsequent mission, Artemis III, which will land astronauts on the moon for the first time in more than 50 years, was also delayed — until at least September 2026. NASA has said it will include a woman and a person of colour on that mission to the moon's south pole.

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson described the Artemis program as "incredibly different" from previous NASA expeditions. "We remind everybody at every turn, safety is our top priority," he told a teleconference, "and to give the Artemis teams more time to work through the challenges with first-time developments, operations and integration, we're going to give more time on Artemis II and III."

The Artemis II mission involves a lunar flyby, performing a figure-eight manoeuvre around the far side of the moon before returning to Earth.

It will be Hansen's maiden space

voyage alongside veteran NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover and Christina Koch, and will be the first crewed flight of the Orion capsule and the first mission to the moon since the last Apollo mission in 1972. It will also make Hansen the first non-American to travel beyond the lower Earth orbit.

Another Canadian astronaut, Jenni Gibbons, 35, of Calgary, was appointed in November as backup to Hansen, 47, of London, Ont., who was assigned last April.

"That Artemis II crew will be the first people to set human eyes on the far side of the moon," said Jim Free, NASA's associate administrator. "I can imagine all the pictures and recordings that they'll bring back to capture those moments, but also inform our understanding of the moon."

News of the delay came barely an hour after a Pittsburgh company abandoned its own attempt to land its spacecraft on the moon because of a mission-ending fuel leak.

Launched on Monday as part of NASA's commercial lunar program, Astrobotic Technology's Peregrine lander was supposed to serve as a scout for the astronauts. A Houston company will give it a shot with its own lander next month.

In late November 2022, NASA launched Artemis I, an uncrewed NASA Orion spacecraft that orbited the moon before returning to Earth.



NASA VIA AP

Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, and CSA (Canadian Space Agency) astronaut Jeremy Hansen during a test at Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023.

Officials outlined a number of issues with the Orion Tuesday, including a circuitry problem and a battery issue key to environmental and life support systems. They also said further testing and analysis is needed after the Artemis I unexpectedly lost layers of its heat shield.

NASA officials said the crew remains hard at work learning systems and monitoring and providing input on the spacecraft's hardware. In December, Hansen told The Canadian Press the crew was training and learning a new craft with new systems.

"We probably have more question marks than you would imagine, and that's because this is a test and development program. You sort of go as fast as you can," Hansen said.

Free said, "As we prepare to send our friends and colleagues on this mission, we're committed to launching as safely as possible and we will launch when we're ready."

The Artemis IV mission, which will be the first mission to assemble the Gateway lunar space station, is still planned for September 2028. The small lunar outpost that will orbit the moon will include a Canadian contribution, Canadarm 3.