# Research, Knowledge Translation and the Arts: Using Digital Stories to Explore the Experiences of Breast Cancer Patients



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(Downfall, 2017)

#### Overview

- Background
- Why digital stories?
- Overview of study
- Key findings
- Considerations



## Using digital stories to explore the experiences of breast cancer patients

- Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in Canadian women
- Combination of age, income and travel time can influence variations in treatment options
- Challenges with making an informed decision: identified gaps in delivery, format and timing of information about options

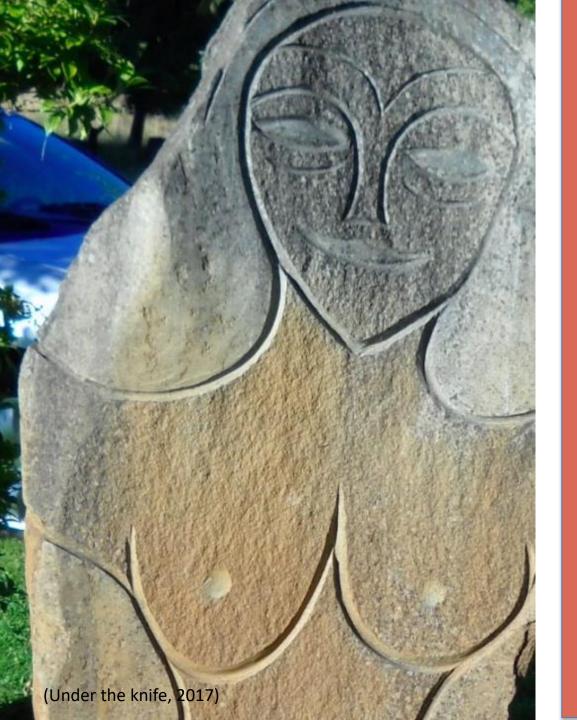
# DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Honouring individual voices while recognizing shared experiences.



## WHY DIGITAL STORYTELLING?

The NL Health Care Paradox



- Two-year participatory health research study
- Three phases:
  - Digital story workshops
  - Organized KUs screenings with questionnaires
  - Knowledge users focus groups
- Team members included a patient advisor and knowledge users

#### **Under the knife**

## Key findings

#### 1. Determinants influence treatment decisions

- Life stages
- Personal circumstances
- Personal values
- Previous experiences (family, self, others)
- Sense of control
- Sexual health
- Medical advice
- Information received /sought out
- Doctor-patient dynamic



(The Detour, 2017)

### Key findings

#### Patient priorities focused on:

- 2. Minimizing emotional distress
- 3. The role of patient navigators
- 4. A whole person care approach is needed
- 5. Creating and viewing digital stories:Overall impact



(The Detour, 2017)

Upcoming site: www.patientstories.ca

focus groups

community

survey screenings

digital stories

theatre production



### Considerations

Time commitment

Resources

Responsibility



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