

# TOM BURNETT, PRESIDENT, MEDICAL ISOTOPES



Nordion is a global health science organization that provides market-leading products used for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

A supplier to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, medical-device manufacturers, hospitals, clinics and research laboratories—Nordion has been in business for more than 60 years. They maintain a broad customer base serving more than 500 customers across 40 different countries around the globe.

Tom's mandate is to define and drive the strategic direction and operations of the Medical Isotopes business unit.

## **Q: BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT MEDICAL ISOTOPES ARE AND THEIR BENEFITS?**

A medical isotope is a safe radioactive substance used by health professionals in approximately 50 million patients in North America to assist in the diagnosis of certain health conditions of the heart, the circulatory system and organs. We have built a unique portfolio of isotopes, which our customers incorporate into products

that are used in medical procedures for patients. Benefits are tenfold for the industry, as breakthrough new procedures are being developed in the cardiology, oncology, and neurology branches of medicine.

## **Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY APPLICATIONS FOR MEDICAL ISOTOPES?**

Medical isotopes are used for medical imaging, and for diagnosis and treatment to improve the health and well-being of cancer patients, neurological procedures, nuclear medicine diagnostic procedures and treatments, as well as research in drug development.

## **Q: HOW HAS THE COMPANY EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?**

Founded in 1946, Nordion developed one of the first teletherapy units that used the radioisotope Cobalt-60 to destroy cancerous tumours. These types of teletherapy units are still being used today to treat patients.

Today, we are a world leader in the health sciences through the production of medical isotopes and Cobalt-60. Used primarily for the sterilization of single-use medical devices, Cobalt-60 is used on drapes, gowns, syringes and surgical gloves, to name a few. In fact, more than 40 per cent of single-use medical devices produced globally use Cobalt-60 as a method of sterilization.

In 2014 Nordion Inc. was acquired by Sterigenics International LLC, the world leader in contract sterilization and ionization services for the medical device, food safety and high performance/specialty materials industries.

## **Q: WHY IS KANATA NORTH A GREAT PLACE FOR NORDION?**

Nordion and its CNSC-licensed 70 acre nuclear site has been headquartered and operating in Kanata, Ontario for more than 50 years. The facility is the only one of its kind in the world. Our company also employs approximately 350 people in Ottawa and remains a global leader in our field.

Kanata North is well known as one of Canada's brightest hubs of technology and innovation. It is also home to some of Canada's best scientists, engineers and technicians. We are very proud to be a part of the Kanata North community and within the larger health sciences community in Canada.

## **Q: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR NORDION?**

On February 20th of this year we were very pleased to announce a partnership with General Atomics and the University of Missouri Research Center (MURR) to secure a long-term supply of medical isotopes.

The agreement reinforces Nordion's leadership in the nuclear industry and highlights our close collaboration with the federal government and internationally recognized partners. The new supply of medical isotopes, which is expected to be on stream in 2017, also reflects our ability to sustain our operations in Kanata well into the future.

