

ALS FACTS

- ALS can strike anyone, at any time, regardless of age, sex or ethnic origin.
- The usual age of onset is 55-65, but people under 20 have been diagnosed.
- Approximately 2,500 - 3,000 Canadians currently live with ALS.
- In at least 90 per cent of cases, it strikes people with no family history of the disease.
- Eighty per cent of people with ALS die within three to five years of diagnosis.
- A person with ALS can require equipment and care valued at more than \$240,000.
- The cause is unknown. There is no known cure or treatment that prolongs life significantly - yet.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The ALS Society of Alberta is proud to fund national research into the cause and cure of ALS. Current research updates are available. Please contact the Provincial Office if you would like more information.

Staff conduct presentations for health care professionals to increase awareness about ALS and to provide information for the best care.

Current and pertinent information about ALS, living with the disease, and the latest research is available through the Society. We also provide referral services which connect clients and caregivers to resources in their community.



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12063 0827 RR0001

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Our mission is to make each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS.

We achieve our mission by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness, helping find a cure and advocating for change.



WHAT IS ALS?

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a rapid, always fatal neurodegenerative disease. It attacks the nerves of the body that would normally send messages from the brain to the muscle, resulting in weakness and wasting. Eventually, the individual with ALS is left completely immobilized, with loss of speech and an inability to swallow and breathe. There is no known cause or cure for this devastating disease.

WHO WE ARE

The ALS Society of Alberta is a registered charity dedicated to making each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS. The Society provides programs and services for clients, families, caregivers and health care providers. Programs and services include: information and education, equipment and assistive technology, support groups, care coordination, referrals, and home visits. The work of the Society is funded through special events, foundations, bequests, memorial contributions, donations and corporate gifts.

SUPPORT

Support groups and education sessions provide people with ALS and their caregivers an opportunity to meet others who are affected, and to share information and experiences in a supportive and safe environment.

These meetings help to:

- Provide a forum for education
- Create a greater comfort level in dealing with the emotional aspects of ALS
- Expand support networks

People living with ALS, caregivers, family, friends and healthcare professionals are all able to access our services.

EQUIPMENT

In collaboration with health care professionals and equipment vendors, the ALS Society is able to support the rapidly changing needs of Albertans affected by ALS. The provincial Equipment Loan Program allows for the lending of power mobility devices, assistive communication devices, and other equipment. The Equipment Loan Program is free of charge for clients to ensure support is available when needed.

HOW TO HELP

There are many ways you can contribute to the Society, including volunteering and organizing a fundraiser. Donations can be made online, over the phone or in person; through planned giving, or donating equipment. If you are interested in getting involved with the Society please contact the Provincial Office or visit www.alsab.ca for further information.