



**ALS SOCIETY OF MANITOBA
LA SOCIÉTÉ MANITOBAINE DE LA SLA**

2A - 1717 DUBLIN AVENUE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3H 0H2
WEBSITE: WWW.ALSMB.CA

PHONE: 204.831.1510
FAX: 204.837.9023
TOLL FREE: 866.718.1642
EMAIL: HOPE@ALSMB.CA

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2015

**ALS SOCIETIES ACROSS CANADA COMMENDS THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
FOR PUTTING THE COMPASSIONATE CARE BENEFIT IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

WINNIPEG – The ALS Society of Manitoba is pleased with the Government of Canada announcement last month of an extension of the Compassionate Care Benefit (CCB). Effective January 3, 2016, the proposed enhanced benefit will allow claimants to collect up to 26 weeks of benefits, up from the current six weeks - a direct financial benefit that will aid Canadian families caring for a loved one with ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

The support from the Government of Canada to commit to the CCB is critical and is praised by ALS Societies across Canada because of the urgency needed to support ALS families. The financial burden on a Canadian family managing this disease is between \$150,000 - \$250,000 in direct and indirect costs, over the short lifespan of a person diagnosed with ALS, which on average is two to five years.

ALS Societies across Canada commends the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health and the Honourable Candice Bergen, Minister of State for Social Development, on behalf of the Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Minister of Employment and Social Development, for their commitment to keeping the Compassionate Care Benefit (CCB) in the spotlight - alleviating some of the financial burden for ALS families.

“Our Government understands the difficult challenges faced by Canadian families when they are caring for a loved one. When a family member is battling serious illness or injury, the last thing Canadians should have to worry about is how to pay the bills. No one should have to choose between work and caring for a loved one,” said the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Health. “Our Government will continue to work with the provinces and territories to facilitate progress in palliative care services for those with life-threatening illnesses. I would like to thank Tammy Moore, Brian Parsons and the ALS Society for helping to make this announcement possible and for their continued support for people living with ALS and their families.”

“On behalf of Canadians living with ALS, the ALS Societies across Canada are grateful for the support from the Government of Canada, and will continue to work on Parliament Hill on innovative partnerships related to easing the burden of this terminal not yet treatable disease,” said Dr. David Taylor, Director of Research, ALS Canada.

For more information, contact:

Diana Rasmussen
Executive Director
ALS Society of Manitoba
Direct: 204-837-1291
Cell: 204-981-1230
Email: drasmussen@alsmb.ca

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is a life limiting disease where 90% of people diagnosed will die within three to five years, some within a few short months. During the past 35 years, the ALS Society of Manitoba has helped clients and their families, by providing information, education, equipment, and support. As the number of people in Manitoba affected by this disease continues to grow, the demand for more client-service based programs grows. The ALS Society of Manitoba provides support to help maintain independence and make informed decisions about their care.