



AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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ALS QUICK FACTS

Fact Sheet

ALS is Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

a - absence
myo - muscle
trophic - nourishment
lateral - side (referring to the spine)
sclerosis - hardening or scarring

The word "lateral" identifies the area where nerve cells in the spinal cord that nourish the muscles are located. As nerve cells die, the muscles receive no nourishment and waste away. Sclerosis occurs as the area affected deteriorates.

ALS may also be called ...

- Lou Gehrig's disease
- MND (Motor Neuron Disease)
- SLA (Sclérose latérale amyotrophique)
- Maladie de Charcot

ALS is a rapidly progressive neuromuscular disease

- Motor nerve cells die
- Voluntary muscles degenerate
- The senses are unimpaired
- The intellect may remain unaffected
- The cause of ALS is unknown
- ALS is not contagious

Some cases are hereditary

- Less than 10 per cent are familial ALS

ALS is a fatal disease with no effective treatment and no cure

- Eighty per cent of people with ALS die within two to five years of diagnosis
- Some people die within a few months
- Ten per cent of those affected may live 10 years or longer

ALS is the most common cause of neurological death in Canada

- The mortality rate for ALS is approximately 2/100,000 per year.
- Approximately 2,500 - 3,000 Canadians over 18 currently live with ALS

ALS can strike anyone

- The incidence rate (number of new diagnoses) of ALS is estimated to be 2/100,000 people per year
- Less than 10 per cent of cases of ALS are hereditary
- ALS can strike both men and women
- ALS affects all ethnic and socio-economic groups
- ALS can strike young or very elderly adults but is most commonly diagnosed in middle and late adulthood

ALS affects the whole family

- People with ALS require costly equipment and care
- Ninety per cent of the burden of care is shouldered by family members
- ALS is a drain on the physical, emotional, and financial resources of caregivers

The ALS Society of Canada

- Funds research for a cure
- Supports the Provincial Societies
- Provides information to build awareness

Ten Provincial ALS Societies

- Provide care and assistance
- Provide information and referrals
- Provide support for caregivers
- Provide equipment for people with ALS
- Advocate on behalf of people with ALS

June is ALS Awareness Month

ALS Canada and the provincial ALS Societies work together to raise awareness of ALS and to raise funds for research and support services. Please buy a cornflower in June to support those who suffer from this devastating disease.

TEN PROVINCIAL SOCIETIES

ALS Society of Canada
3000 Steeles Avenue East, Suite 200
Markham, ON L3R 4T9
1-800-267-4257
www.als.ca

ALS Society of Alberta (and NWT)
320 - 23rd Avenue SW, Suite 400
Calgary, AB T2S 0J2
403-228-3857
www.alsab.ca

ALS Society of British Columbia (and Yukon)
#208-1600 West 6th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 1R3
1 800 708-3228
www.alsbc.ca

ALS Society of New Brunswick
P.O. Box 295
Moncton, NB E1C 8K9
506-532-5786
www.alsnb.ca

ALS Society of Newfoundland & Labrador
P.O. Box 844
Corner Brook, NL A2H 6H6
1 888 364-9499
www.envision.ca/webs/alsnl

ALS Society of Nova Scotia
3433 Dutch Village Road, Unit #3
Halifax, NS B3N 2S7
902-454-3636
info@alsns.ca

ALS Society of Ontario and Nunavut
265 Yorkland Blvd., Suite 300
Toronto, ON M2J 1S5
1 866 611-8545 or (416) 497-8545
www.alsont.ca

ALS Society of Prince Edward Island
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