



The ALS Society of Alberta

10 FACTS ABOUT ALS

1) ALS MAY ALSO BE CALLED

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- Sclérose Latérale Amyotrophique
- Lou Gehrig's Disease
- Motor Neuron Disease (MND)
- Maladie de Charcot

2) ALS IS A PROGRESSIVE NEUROMUSCULAR DISEASE

- Nerve cells continue to die
- Voluntary muscles become paralyzed
- The senses are unimpaired and the intellect may remain unaffected

3) ALS CAN STRIKE ANYONE

- Male or female
- Any ethnic origin
- At any age
 - Some have been diagnosed as teens
 - Usual onset is in middle age

4) 90% DIE WITHIN TWO TO FIVE YEARS OF DIAGNOSIS

- Some will die within a few short months
- Some will live longer than five years

5) SOME CASES ARE HEREDITARY

- Less than 10% are familial ALS
- ALS is not contagious

6) APPROXIMATELY 3,000 CANADIANS CURRENTLY LIVE WITH ALS

7) EVERYDAY TWO OR THREE CANADIANS DIE OF ALS

- ALS is the most common cause of neurological death in Canada

8) ALS AFFECTS THE WHOLE FAMILY

- 90% of care is shouldered by family caregivers
- ALS is a costly disease—emotionally, physically and financially

9) THE ALS SOCIETY OF CANADA

- Fund research for a cure

10) THE ALS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

- Provides quality care and support to those affected by ALS
- Provides information and referrals
- Provides equipment
- Provides information to build awareness and advocacy

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