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THE CORNFLOWER: A SYMBOL FOR ALS

The Cornflower is the international symbol of ALS. It represents positive hope for the future.

The Cornflower is an annual or biennial plant. It originated in Mediterranean Europe and now flourishes across Canada.

The Cornflower symbolizes courage. Despite its fragile appearance, it can withstand both frost and drought. Its peaceful, strong blue colour never fades, no matter what it faces. People with ALS show tremendous courage and strength of character to cope with the devastating changes that occur to their bodies.

HONORARY CHAIR

The ALS Society of Alberta/NWT is clearly committed to its mission of “making everyday the best possible day for people with ALS.” Their ability to meet the needs of those with ALS has grown steadily over the years and includes not only the practical equipment and information, but also compassion and caring. It is indeed a privilege to be their Honorary Chair.

These services would not be possible without the dedicated efforts, primarily by volunteers, that go into raising both resources and awareness. I know this dedication and commitment will foster continued growth. Congratulations on all you have accomplished and all the best in 2003.

Jim Gray, O.C.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Stauff	President
Jim McLaughlin	Past President
Terra Parkinson	Secretary
Lisa Zeibarth	Treasurer
Karen Caughey	Director
Daria Groch Arnold	Director
Mark Stauff	Director
Chris Yates	Director
Jim Bowling	Director

STAFF

Mary Hatcher	Executive Director
Jane Rivest	Client Services Coordinator (South)
Lyn Skipper	Equipment Program Coordinator.
T.O. Whenham	Manager of Resource Development
Helen Desjardins	Office Coordinator (Provincial Office)
Patricia Ordynec	Support and Education Coordinator (North)
Karen Andrus	Administration and Volunteer Services (North)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been another exceptional year for the ALS Society of Alberta/NWT. As an organization we have continued to focus all our efforts on making "every day the best day possible for people with ALS and their families." This goal is accomplished through a number of initiatives, most relying on the tireless efforts of wonderful staff and dedicated volunteers.

The Society in 2002 has moved forward in a number of key areas including expanded client services, increased awareness, and major steps forward to finding a cure to this horrible disease. We increased our staff and moved into new expanded facilities in Edmonton to meet the growing needs of our clients in Northern Alberta. Our very own (well almost) Wendy Crewson, actor and patron of the Betty's Run for ALS, was named the Gemini Humanitarian Award in November bringing awareness of ALS to a new level. The award came with a donation of \$10,000 from Global Television, coincidentally, a major sponsor for ALS Alberta through the Walk to D'feet ALS. Finally, through ALS Canada, we have helped fund ground breaking research into new treatments for those with ALS. A cure is not in sight yet, but the new research developments are as promising as they have ever been. Much of this success has come as a result of the wonderful group of talented and hard working staff that brings a special blend of skills and talents to their work with people we serve. The Society is extremely fortunate to have the current complement of staff in Calgary and Edmonton and owes each one of these individuals our deepest gratitude.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would also like to extend sincere thanks to all the people who work as volunteers and have done a remarkable job supporting the efforts of the Society. A very special thanks goes out to all the people living with ALS who have given their time and energy to help others. Thank you to everyone responsible for the incredibly successful Betty's Run for ALS. This event has been a cornerstone fundraiser for ALS research, equipment, and client services programs for six years. Thank you to the volunteers who have made Evelyn's Tee Off for ALS an annual success and to the people in Hanna who raised money and awareness in the Friends of Garth Hanlon Golf Tournament for ALS Awareness. Thank you to everyone in Edmonton, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Cold Lake, and Didsbury who organized and participated in the Walk to D'feet ALS. Special thanks to the Yates Family (Chris, Teddy and Heather), recipients of the 2002 ALS Canada Mary Pollock Award for their tireless efforts in organizing the highly success Walk to D'feet ALS activities in Edmonton. Thank you to all the volunteers who help in so many different ways.

A special thanks to all the funders, sponsors and donors who have made financial contributions towards helping us provide care and find a cure. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps us help others.

The ALS Society of Alberta/NWT is truly a community of people who live out the mission "to make every day the best day possible for people with ALS." Together we will be successful in reaching this goal.

Tim Stauff, President



THE ALS ALBERTA STAFF PERSPECTIVE

“Making everyday the best possible day for those with ALS” is the driving force behind everything we do. In 2002, we did this by sustaining solid internal growth and by getting better at what we do. Each individual is to be commended for their dedication to the services we provide and their willingness to turn their hands – and minds – to the many tasks that come along, even when they have little to do with their own job description!

“Hard work and good fortune allowed us to significantly exceed our fundraising goal in 2002. ... There is every reason to believe it is just the beginning.”

–*T.O. Whenham, Manager, Resource Development*

The ALS Society of Alberta— Edmonton Chapter and North Region served 89 individuals and families with ALS by providing information, support, resources and equipment, as well as providing 16 in-services to 145 health professionals.

–*Patricia Ordynec, Support and Education Co-ord. (North)*

“The equipment pool has grown to over 840 pieces, enlarged through purchase, cost sharing and donations. ... Power chairs, lift track and porch lifts are our biggest demand and expense items. Easy lift chairs... continue to provide great comfort to our clients.”

–*Lyn Skipper, Equipment Manager*

The ALS Society of Alberta— Edmonton Chapter and North Region developed a volunteer program... 41 volunteers gave 1476.25 hours in 2002.

–*Karen Andrus, Admin. and Vol. Admin. (North)*

“Between 1999 and 2002, there has been a staggering 118 per cent increase in processing income tax receipts. ... Although I find my work at the ALS Society busy and challenging, especially with the increasing number of donations in need of processing, it is most rewarding.”

–*Helen Desjardins, Office Coordinator (Provincial Office)*

“I have noticed over the past year, the support for people with ALS in other communities in Southern Alberta has grown tremendously. In one region, we were able to help acquire the maximum funding legislated by the government for our patient. Four years ago, this same health region would only provide one bath a week for our client. It made me feel very satisfied to know it was largely our work that had made the difference. The greatest reward in my job comes from accompanying people with ALS and their families throughout their journey. ... I have had the privilege of sharing the final hours and days with several families and I get a great deal of satisfaction from this. Because of the knowledge I have gained by sharing the final journey with other people with ALS, I am able to bring this to other families.”

–*Jane Rivest, Client Services Co-ord. (South)*

It is an honour to be the Executive Director of the ALS Society of Alberta and to be a part of this amazing team.

Mary Hatcher, Executive Director



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

It has been a very good year for resource development for the ALS Society of Alberta. Hard work and good fortune allowed us to significantly exceed our fundraising goal.

Betty's Run achieved record revenues in June. They have now raised more than \$800,000 and created tremendous awareness of the Society and our efforts in Calgary and beyond.

The Walk to D'Feet ALS was a tremendous success. The number of sites grew from two in 2001 to five this year. Cold Lake, Didsbury and Lethbridge joined Edmonton and Medicine Hat. Revenue increased substantially. As importantly, a concerted and comprehensive effort was made to learn from the success of the program and remove any impediments for continued growth.

A number of groups across the province held events such as golf tournaments and concerts in support of our mission. We worked with many of them to help maximize their efforts and we are incredibly thankful for their hard work and their support of the Society.

We came a long way in 2002. There is every reason to believe it is just the beginning. Our resource development program has remained centrally committed to sustainability and efficient growth.

T.O. Whenham, Manager, Resource Development

Palliative Care: Several times in the past year, we have had the privilege to support the family, and the health care professionals at the end of life for our clients. The value of this support is difficult to measure. But for all of these families, they cannot say enough about the end of life support that we have provided to them.

Jane Rivest – Client Services Coordinator

A therapist made a point of telling Lyn (*ALS AB Equipment Program Coordinator*) how incredible she finds the ALS Society in regards to what we do and how very appreciative she is.



FINANCIAL STATISTICS

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31

ASSETS

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
CURRENT:		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 312,086	\$ 367,957
Accounts receivable	13,472	6,168
Prepaid expenses	24,738	18,187
	<u>350,296</u>	<u>392,312</u>
NET CAPITAL ASSETS (NOTE 3)	<u>186,427</u>	<u>203,774</u>
	<u>\$ 536,723</u>	<u>\$ 596,086</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 38,470	\$ 113,196
Deferred revenue	22,439	16,439
Current portion of long term debt (Note 4)	-	10,330
	<u>60,909</u>	<u>139,965</u>
UNAMORTIZED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>205,824</u>	<u>223,036</u>
DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS	<u>59,136</u>	<u>50,816</u>
NET ASSETS, UNRESTRICTED	<u>210,854</u>	<u>182,269</u>
	<u>\$ 536,723</u>	<u>\$ 596,086</u>

Approved by the Board:



AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
REVENUES:		
Fundraising	\$ 444,649	\$ 280,690
General donations	104,320	63,678
Amortization of capital contributions	70,026	68,125
Memoriams	53,381	32,411
Grant – Calgary Foundation	27,002	-
Interest and other income	10,676	10,201
Bequest and anonymous donations	-	150,000
	<hr/> 710,054	<hr/> 605,105
EXPENSES:		
Wages and related costs	259,753	228,777
Research	143,988	103,825
Amortization	70,161	101,767
Rent	41,002	36,985
Client equipment expense	46,932	28,132
Office supplies and expense	27,830	26,957
Community services	23,155	-
Travel	22,808	19,158
Telephone and fax	14,518	13,339
Awareness and education	15,574	11,254
Professional fees	7,847	8,728
Insurance	5,567	4,626
Memberships and dues	496	3,462
Miscellaneous	1,838	1,521
	<hr/> 681,469	<hr/> 588,531
EXCESS REVENUES FOR THE YEAR	28,585	16,574
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	182,269	165,695
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<hr/> \$ 210,854	<hr/> \$ 182,269



ALS INFORMATION

What is ALS?

ALS is a rapidly progressive neuromuscular disease. It attacks the nerves that the body would normally use to send messages from the brain to the muscle, resulting in weakness and wasting. Eventually, the individual with ALS is left completely paralysed, with loss of speech, swallowing and breathing. The mind remains completely alert and lucid. A lively, unimpaired mind is trapped in an immobilized body. The average life expectancy at diagnosis is 2.5 years.

What causes ALS?

In the majority of cases, the cause is unknown. Research is being conducted in areas relating to genetic predispositions, viral or infectious agents, environmental toxins and immunological changes. Some of this research is happening right here in Alberta.

Is there a cure?

Simply, no. There is no treatment that prolongs life significantly. Some drugs now available and others being developed will offer new treatment options. Research is investigating ways to reverse the disease. There may be a cure, eventually.

What are the effects of ALS?

As the disease progresses, individuals become completely dependent and increasingly unable to communicate their needs. Institutionalization is rare; care is almost always provided by family members. Often, family members must quit their jobs to provide this care. This adds enormous financial strain to the already severe emotional stress on families coping with the impending loss of a loved one.

The wife cannot believe how much things have improved since I got involved. I don't think I did much, but I know it helps a lot that I am able to listen to both sides, family and Home Care and then help to facilitate a solution.

Jane Rivest – Client Services Coordinator, S. AB

"How do you do everything so well? I wish other agencies could be as organized"

This from Home Care.

Patricia Ordynec – Education & Support Services



WHAT DOES THE ALS SOCIETY OF ALBERTA DO?

Information, Referral and Home Visits:

We provide individuals with ALS and their families information about ALS, and the services that are available. We provide further help in navigating the health care system and in accessing equipment and services in a timely fashion. Staff members conduct home visits to offer support, and stay in touch by phone and E-mail.

Equipment and Assistive Technology:

Mobility devices, such as power wheel chairs and scooters, and communication equipment, such as laptop computers and electronic speech devices, give freedom of movement to the paralysed and a voice to the silent. These items, as well as hospital beds and lifts are all equipment that a person with ALS will need during the course of the disease. ALS is a rapidly progressive disease, and individuals cannot afford to wait for the equipment they need. The ALS Society provides equipment, works with families and insurance companies to fund the equipment and makes up any funding shortfall. The society maintains a pool of equipment so that the right piece of equipment may be available immediately.

Support Groups:

The ALS Society believes that by sharing the frustrations, fears and inspirations of individuals and family members, barriers of isolation and loneliness can be broken. Bringing individuals with ALS together provides an opportunity for each to help and support the other.

Awareness and Education:

To beat this disease we must make people aware. The Society does this by publishing books, producing videos, maintaining a website and promoting the ALS cause at special events. The society also works with medical professionals and caregivers to make sure they know about the disease and how to deal with it.



OUR MISSION

The Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society of Alberta is dedicated to making everyday the best possible day for people with ALS by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness and helping find a cure.

OUR VISION

Through increased, province-wide awareness, provide hope and access to equitable levels of support for people affected by ALS.

OUR VALUES

RESPECT:

We treat everyone as people first and foremost, and respect their rights and responsibilities.

CARING:

We show compassion. We help those in need and avoid harming others.

SERVICE:

We are involved in efforts to serve the needs of people affected by ALS, without the motive of personal gain. We provide services in a fair and equitable manner.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

We are responsible for our decisions and actions made on behalf of the society. We demonstrate due diligence in fulfilling our commitments to our members, their families and friends, volunteers, funders and all others who provide support to our members. We are committed to the continuous improvement of our Society for the betterment of our members.

PASSION:

We demonstrate a strong, emotional enthusiasm in our endeavours to make a positive difference in the lives of people affected by ALS. We communicate this enthusiasm to others in an attempt to encourage others to share in our vision.

QUALITY OF LIFE:

We endeavour to ensure that all people in Alberta with ALS are afforded the highest level of support and services.

