

NEWS RELEASE

ALS Societies across Canada announce the fund allocation from the Ice Bucket Challenge

The ALS Society of Alberta is excited to announce that the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has raised \$16.2 million in Canada due to the generosity of more than 260,000 Canadians. This record-breaking success has allowed for ALS to become a commonly known disease in Alberta, and has given hope to the ALS community. Funds will be allocated toward the national ALS research program, and to client support services within each province.

In addition, the funds raised for ALS research will be matched on a 1:1 basis through a new partnership with Brain Canada, bringing the total investment to \$20 million. The ALS Society of Alberta is proud to have been working with the 10 provincial societies in order to make this partnership come together.

"The summer of 2014 will be remembered as the Ice Bucket Challenge Phenomenon that brought our families and the community together across the country. The Ice Bucket Challenge has given hope to all those who are presently battling this fatal disease," says Karen Caughey, Executive Director of the ALS Society of Alberta. "Thank you to our clients, families and Albertans that supported the Challenge."

Of funds raised, thousands will remain in Alberta to support and enhance the services provided by the ALS Society of Alberta. Services include mobility and communication equipment provided at no cost, home support visits, coordination of care in the community, support groups across the province, support for children through our Support for Champions program and advocacy for the best possible support for people living with ALS.

The ALS Societies across Canada are ten independent organizations in each province, that work collaboratively in the dedication to provide programs and services to Canadians living with ALS, to fund research and to increase awareness amongst the public, media and government bodies. The Ice Bucket Challenge funds were allocated through the national group, representing each individual province.

For more information about the ALS Society of Alberta, please visit www.alsab.ca

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For more information please contact:

Karen Caughey
Executive Director
ALS Society of Alberta

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(403) 228-3857

Karen@alsab.ca



What is ALS?

ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is a neurodegenerative disease where the cells in the body that control movement die. The “living wires” which connect a person’s brain to their muscles degenerate, leading to a loss of mobility and eventual paralysis, changes or complete loss of speech and eventually the ability to breathe. ALS is a terminal disease that has no cure, and no effective treatment. Approximately 2,500-3,000 Canadians are living with ALS. It is estimated that 1,000 Canadians will die because of ALS and 1,000 will be newly diagnosed each year. The average lifespan is two to five years.

ALS Society of Alberta

The ALS Society of Alberta is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making each day the best possible day for people living with and affected by ALS. We achieve our vision by providing support, facilitating the provision of care, promoting awareness, helping find a cure and advocating for change.