

OUR MISSION STATEMENT CHANGE

Parkinson Society British Columbia



Overview

In late 2018, Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC) made the decision to amend its mission statement to better align with the needs of the Parkinson's community, and more accurately reflect the desire for those affected by the disease to be active participants in symptom management.

As our Bylaws state, the Society is required to have a minimum of two people with Parkinson's disease as active members on the Board of Directors. This is to ensure that the Society remains focused on priorities important to the community it serves, as well as provide a greater diversity of opinions.

This change was guided by those living with Parkinson's disease who sit on the Board.

Our old mission statement:

Parkinson Society British Columbia is the voice of British Columbians living with Parkinson's. Our purpose is to ease the burden and find a cure for Parkinson's disease through advocacy, education, research, and support services.

Our new mission statement:

Empower the Parkinson's community in British Columbia through providing resources and services to enable self-management, self-reliance, and self-advocacy.

Why we changed our mission statement

Parkinson Society British Columbia considers itself a service-based organization. Our priority is to help people affected by Parkinson's disease improve their quality of life and live well.

Our change in mission does not mean that we will stop providing programs, services, advocacy efforts, and research contributions; rather it highlights a shift in approach to empowering and enabling individuals to take control of their health.

While Parkinson's can cause disabling symptoms, we recognize that each person's experience with the disease is different. In recent years, there has been a greater effort to improve awareness of disabilities, with focus being placed on what adaptations can be made to help people live well, recognizing each person's strengths, and presenting a more realistic picture of what it means to live with a chronic condition.

We see our change in mission to align with the shift in social awareness, in that it acknowledges each individual can use informed decision making to manage their health. The resources and services provided by the Society, will allow people to choose what fits their needs at any given point in time.

What the Society means to those we serve

"Parkinson Society British Columbia empowers me to take ownership of how I want to tackle the illness, and enables me to not just passively let others tell me what I need to do. With the Society's assistance, I'm able to advocate for myself with my doctors. Furthermore, by connecting with PSBC and the Parkinson's community, our challenges can be shared with one another, which allows the Society to better advocate on our behalf."

- *Richard Mayede, Parkinson Society BC, Director*

"Accessing and utilizing the resources and services the Society provides will enable people to build their own wellness program. PSBC is a part of your healthcare team like your neurologist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, nurse, clinician, social worker, etc. To manage Parkinson's disease, one has to cast a wide net. PSBC enables me with the information they provide so that I feel empowered to ask questions, even the ones I think are 'stupid,' so I can seek out what will help with my own wellness on a daily basis."

- *John Hougan, Parkinson Society BC, Director*