Become an Advocacy Ambassador

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder causing a gradual loss of motor control. Currently, 13,300 (2014/2015) British Columbians, and approximately 12% of Canada's population over the age of 80, are living with the disease. Although treatment is complex, it is one of the most treatable neurological conditions. Yet, according to the BC Ministry of Health, in 2012/2013, \$112 million was spent in BC on direct care related to PD. Through better education and the development of a provincial strategy, we believe patient outcomes can be improved.

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DECREASE WAITLIST TIMES

Waitlist times at movement disorder clinics can be up to 24 months. Without assessments from a movement disorder specialist, who can provide guidance on treatments, patients are at a higher risk of falls, hospitalization and lengthy hospital stays.



IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DISEASE

Allied health professionals often lack knowledge of Parkinson's disease and its management, leading patients to receive improper treatments. Furthermore, the lack of integration in the system can lead to a disconnect between specialists and general health care practitioners.

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ENSURE MEDICATION IS PROPERLY MANAGED

Parkinson's disease is different for each patient, but the one thing that remains the same is the need for taking medication on time. Inadequate knowledge of the disease in the healthcare system, has led to serious side-effects for Parkinson's patients – particularly when an individual is hospitalized.

For more information on how to participate in our advocacy initiatives, please contact: Jean Blake, Chief Executive Officer Parkinson Society British Columbia 604 662 3240 or 1800 668 3330 jblake@parkinson.bc.ca www.parkinson.bc.ca

