



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Todd Doherty*

Member of Parliament  
Cariboo—Prince George

January 27<sup>th</sup> 2023

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa

Dear Minister Duclos,

I write this letter to express my strong support for a request for \$10 million in funding by the ALS Society of British Columbia, to support the second phase of their initiative – Project Hope.

In 2019, ALS BC set a commendable goal to establish an ALS Research Professorship at the University of British Columbia to be held by a clinician/scientist to champion and run the programme – Project Hope. This project aims to create a world class ALS Centre at UBC that will strive to create an optimal environment integrating research and clinical care.

ALS is a debilitating illness that becomes progressively worse within a very short time span once afflicted. It affects thousands of Canadians, with over 1,000 people dying from it every year.

Through my work as co-chair of the House of Commons ALS Caucus and through frequent interactions with the many ALS advocacy groups, such as ALS Canada, I have witnessed heart-breaking stories of Canadians living and dying with ALS and the impact upon their families.

While I had participated in ALS awareness campaigns like the ice bucket challenge before being elected, it wasn't until watching our former colleague Mauril Belanger's rapid deterioration during my first days as a Parliamentarian did I fully understand how devastating ALS was and I committed right then to do whatever I could to fight this terrible disease.

The most recent victim of this terrible disease is a constituent of mine and a Canadian Armed Forces veteran, Deane Gorsline, who passed away this month at the age of 33. During the four years after his diagnosis, not only did Deane pursue treatment options for himself but he felt compelled to contribute to creating an organization whose goal was to facilitate treatment options for all Canadians living with ALS. He founded ALS Action Canada and served the remainder of his young life fighting for treatment opportunities for ALS patients across Canada.

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As I told Deane many times, I remain steadfast in my commitment to helping Canadians already struggling with ALS and towards our collective search for a cure.

Therefore, Minister, please accept this letter as an expression of my fullest support for ALS Society of British Columbia's request for \$10M in funding for its Project Hope.

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have about this funding request and about the ongoing advocacy on behalf of ALS patients across Canada. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Doherty, M.P.

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