

About Parkinson's Disease

- Parkinson's disease (PD) is a progressive neurological disorder with no known cure.
- There are over 13,000 people in British Columbia living with Parkinson's disease, and over 100,000 people across Canada.
- Common motor symptoms include tremor (shaking), slowness of movement, muscle stiffness, and impaired balance. Other symptoms often include fatigue, speech and writing difficulties, sleep disorders, cognitive changes, and more.
- Parkinson's causes dopamine-producing cells to die off, resulting in the onset of motor symptoms. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter important for nervous system functioning.
- Parkinson's is the second most common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer's. The worldwide incidence of Parkinson's is expected to double by 2040.
- Since there is no cure, treatment is focused on symptom management. Exercise and medication are the two most common ways to treat Parkinson's.

About Parkinson SuperWalk

Parkinson SuperWalk is the largest and most important provincial and national awareness and fundraising event for Parkinson Society British Columbia and the event licensor, Parkinson Canada. We are adapting to the new normal this year by bringing you an engaging virtual SuperWalk experience, with walk weekend taking place September 12th and 13th. As we continue to practice physical distancing for the health and safety of our communities, the event will help us carry on providing the programs, support services, educational resources, and advocacy that people with Parkinson's, their families, and carepartners rely on.

Funds raised across the province support Parkinson Society British Columbia's efforts to empower the Parkinson's community, including:

- Advocating for issues important to the Parkinson's community. Learn more: parkinson.bc.ca/advocacy
- Supporting local research, in partnership with the Michael Smith Foundation and Parkinson Quebec.
- Connecting our community to leading authorities on Parkinson's through educational events and publications.
- Reminding people with Parkinson's that they are not alone, by providing free, accessible front-line services.

About Parkinson Society British Columbia

Parkinson Society British Columbia (PSBC) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that serves to empower people with Parkinson's in British Columbia through providing resources and services to enable self-management, self-reliance, and self-advocacy. The Society is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, and is supported by donations from individuals, members, corporations, foundations, and the efforts of our volunteers.

Our services include:

- Educational materials for people with PD, their caregivers, and healthcare professionals.
- Free, short-term, confidential counselling services for anyone touched by Parkinson's.
- Over 50 volunteer-led support groups in communities across the province, and online.
- PD Link, a peer support program for individuals with PD and caregivers.
- Education events, including workshops, conferences, webinars, and community talks.
- PD Connect, a referral program for healthcare professionals treating people with PD.
- Information, consultations, and referrals through our toll-free information line and email.

Celebrating 50 years of service

Since 1969, PSBC has been a part of a strong community united in our dedication to improve the lives of those affected by Parkinson's. To mark this milestone, we hope to extend our reach further, and strengthen our impact greater than ever before – within the Parkinson's community and beyond.

QUESTIONS?

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