

It's time to find out why!

By Shannon MacDonald

Over 100,000 Canadians are battling Parkinson's disease today, the second most common neurodegenerative condition in Canada. And, while researchers continue to develop improved treatment and therapies, key questions remain unanswered – most specifically, questions about cause and cure.

Does the environment cause it? Could it be work-related? Maybe it's genetic. Most scientists and clinicians believe that Parkinson's is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. It's time to find out why.

Parkinson's disease affects more men than women, increases significantly with age and may be more common amongst certain occupations. It's time to find out why.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that more and more people are being diagnosed with Parkinson's in their 20's, 30's and 40's. It's time to find out why.

Parkinson's disease is severely debilitating and forces unplanned, early retirement because there's no way to halt its progression. It's time to find out why.

Why now?

Experts predict that in the absence of a cure, the population of Canadians with Parkinson's disease will double over the next 10 years. The potential social and economic impact of this reality is devastating, so the time to find answers is now.

And it is an exciting time in Canadian Parkinson's research. Canadian investigators among the world's best in the field of Parkinson's science, are conducting leading-edge research in the areas of genetics, cell replacement, robotics, drug therapies, and population studies, to name a few. They are ready to accelerate the pace of discovery. With support from Parkinson Society Canada (PSC), they stand to make major discoveries, but research is expensive work. PSC is the largest non-government funder of Parkinson's research in Canada and has invested over \$5 million in basic and clinical research over the past five years. Unfortunately, it simply isn't enough to fund the volume and diversity of work needed to answer the complex questions of Parkinson's disease.

So...we're stepping up our efforts, increasing our commitment and working harder than ever to create a brighter future for Canadians with Parkinson's today, and a world without Parkinson's tomorrow.

To learn more about Parkinson's research or find out how you can support the effort, please visit www.parkinson.ca or call 1-800-585-3000.