

2026 Day on the Hill Training Webinar

April 20, 2026

MS | SP Canada

Welcome

Agenda

Welcome and Day on the Hill
Logistics

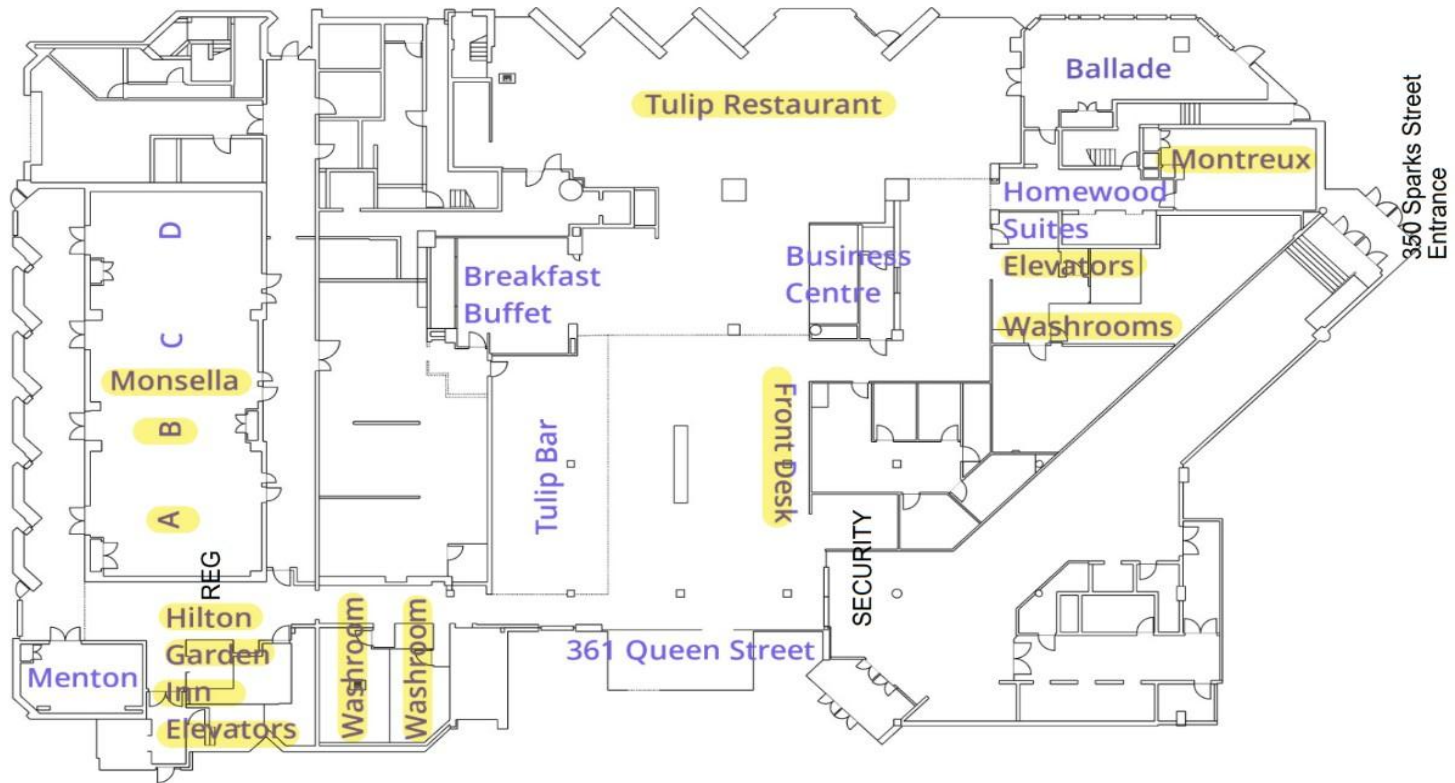
Policy Priorities

Political Update with Earnscliffe
Strategies

Day on the Hill Logistics



Hotel – Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites



361 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 0C7

Welcome Dinner:
Monsella Room

HQ:
Montreux Room
Available during the day
Monday and Tuesday

Breakfast:
Tulip Restaurant

Day on the Hill Timeline

Date/Time	Event
Sunday, May 3– 5 p.m.	Evening Welcome Dinner and Briefing
Monday, May 4– 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
Monday, May 4– 9 a.m. onwards	Parliamentarian Meetings
Monday, May 4– 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Parliamentary Reception <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metropolitan Brasserie, 700 Sussex Drive
Tuesday, May 5– 7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
Tuesday, May 5– 9 a.m. onwards	Parliamentarian meetings
Wednesday, May 6	Digital Carnation Pinning – Canada-wide Carnation Pinning – House of Commons Senate of Canada

NEW Day on the Hill Webpage

What's on the Day on the Hill Webpage?

- **Agenda**
- **Participant Graphics for Social Media**
- **Resources**
 - Hotel map
 - Map of Parliament Hill
 - Map with food spots
 - Policy Priorities Booklet
 - Meeting follow up (Letter of support)
- **Training Webinars, including the 2025 Storytelling Webinar**
- **Expense Form**
- **Meeting Report Form** - completed by team lead after every meeting

NEW e-Learning Module

**Government in
Canada: A Primer
for Day on the Hill
Participants**

START COURSE

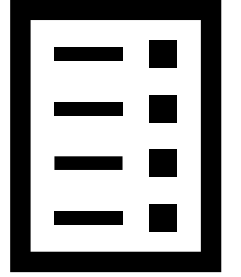
**Gouvernement du
Canada : document
préparatoire à la
Journée sur la
Colline
parlementaire**

COMMENCER LE MODULE

Parliamentarian Meetings

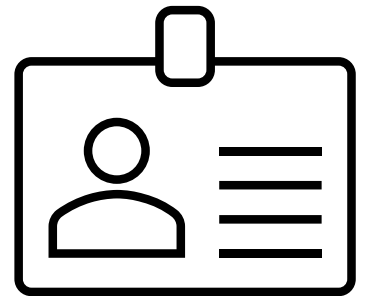
Meeting Schedule

- Treena Gracey – Master Meeting Coordinator
- Individual Meeting Schedules will be sent via email
- Treena will communicate schedule changes via text and phone calls on May 4 and May 5



Security

- Will require valid government-issued photo ID
- One bag smaller than 35.5 cm x 30.5 cm x 19 cm (14" x 12" x 7.5") is permitted per visitor. Visitors carrying items that exceed these dimensions will be denied entry. There is no bag check available.
- All visitors are required to go through security screening when entering the buildings. Expect line-ups. Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your meeting start time.

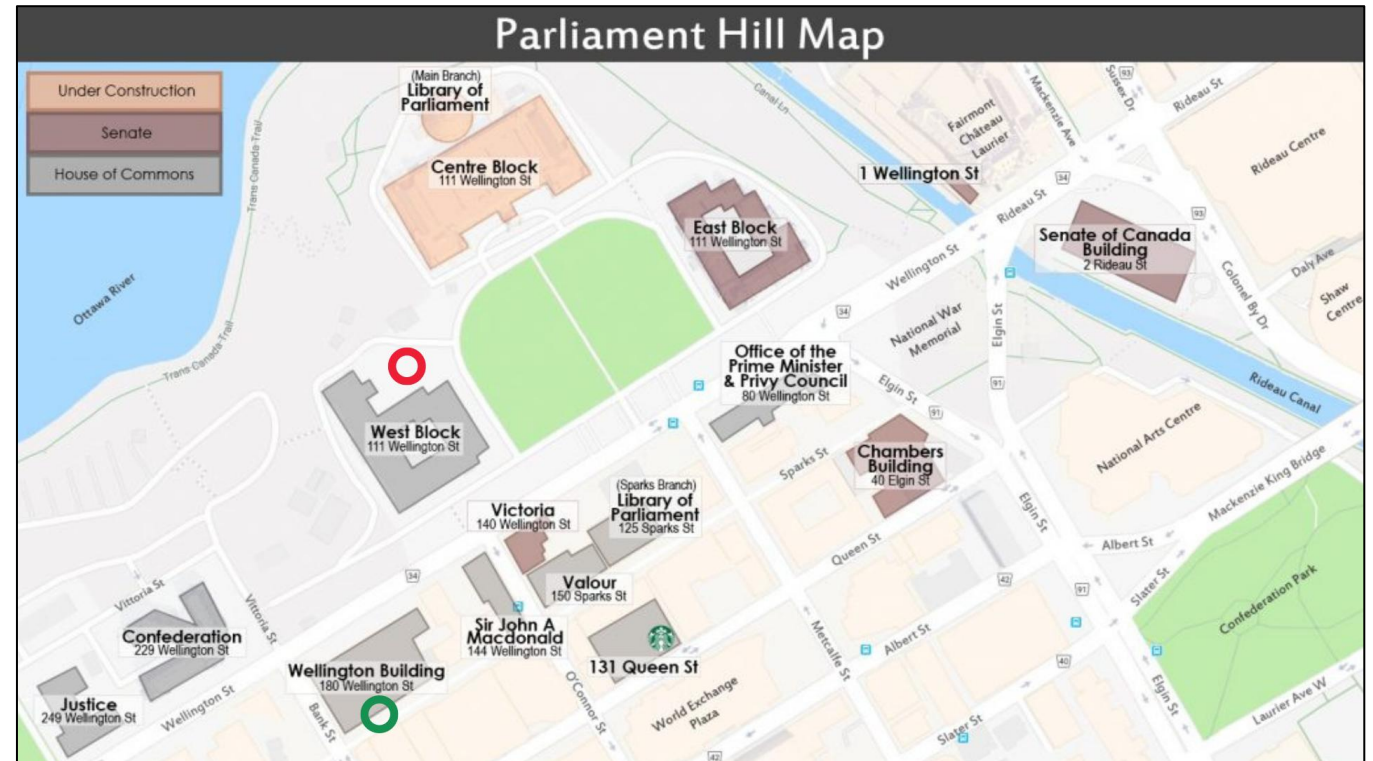


Parliamentarian Meetings

Meeting Locations:

- West Block
- East Block
- Confederation Building
- Justice Building
- Valour Building
- Victoria Building
- Chambers Building
- Senate of Canada Building

**Ubers and taxis can be used for transportation to and from the Parliament Buildings if needed.



Meeting Plan

We have set aside time at the Welcome Dinner to meet with your meeting teams to discuss plans for each meeting.

Day on the Hill 2026 Meeting Plan

MS Canada



Introductions (3 minutes)

Tell Your Story (5 minutes)

- One participant shares an MS impact story
- About MS and MS Canada

Partner to Prevent MS: Canada's opportunity to lead (6 minutes)

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a lifelong neurological disease that often begins early in adulthood. For the first time, science shows us that preventing MS is within reach. With one of the highest MS rates in the world and decades of excellence in research and care, Canada is well positioned to act during this early window.

Key Action: A federal investment of \$15 million, in partnership with MS Canada, will support prevention-focused MS research to improve the long-term health of Canadians through earlier detection and earlier intervention, and strengthen Canada's leadership in science and innovation.

Why MS? The Impact on Canadians

Science now shows MS prevention is within reach. The identification of the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) as a *required trigger* for MS has shifted global understanding, making early detection and prevention a credible, achievable goal.

MS affects young adults at a pivotal stage of life. Approximately 12 Canadians are diagnosed every day, often as they are starting their careers and families, with long-term impacts on independence, participation, and community well-being.

Why Canada?

Canada has one of the highest MS rates in the world, with more than 90,000 Canadians living with MS and \$3.4B in annual health-system and productivity losses—signaling both urgent need and major potential benefit from prevention.

Canada is uniquely positioned to lead. MS Canada is the largest non-government MS research funder in the country, supporting 108 research initiatives and decades of talent, infrastructure, and collaborative networks that power global-leading discovery.

Parliamentary Reception

The **Parliamentary Reception** is an opportunity to raise awareness of MS and MS Canada among Parliamentarians. Volunteer Barb Van Walleghem will share her story with attendees.

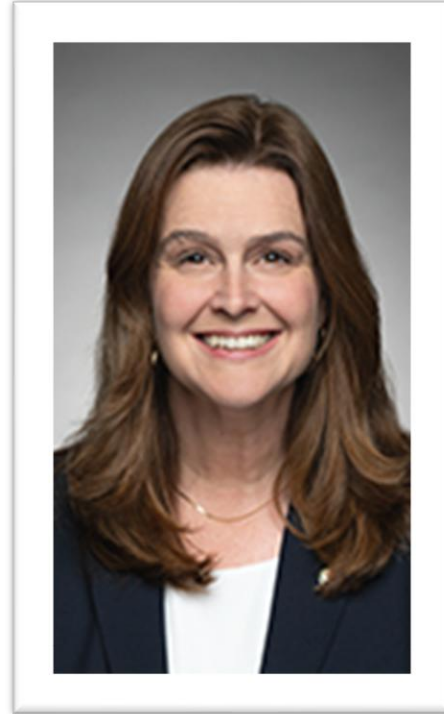


Monday, May 4
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Metropolitan Brasserie
700 Sussex Drive

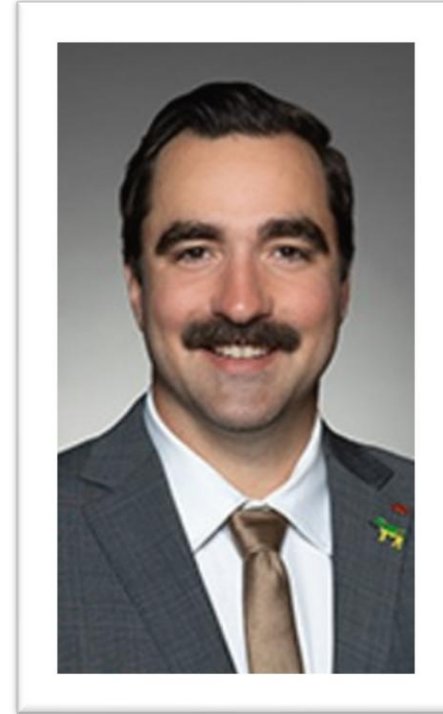
Parliamentary Reception Co-Hosts



Sen. Mary Coyle,
Independent
Senators Group



Jennifer McKelvie,
Liberal Party of
Canada



Jeremy Patzer,
Conservative
Party of Canada



Marie-Hélène
Gaudreau,
Bloc Québécois

Day on the Hill Social Graphics

We've created graphics specifically for participants to share on your social media channels during your time in Ottawa.

The graphics will be available for download on our webpage.



Over 90,000 Canadians live with MS.
I'm one of them.

I'm joining MS Canada on Parliament Hill this week to share my story and push for a stronger future for Canadians living with MS.

#TakeActionForMS

MS Canada

Day on the Hill Poster

MS Canada

I'm participating in
MS Awareness Month
on Parliament Hill to

#TakeActionForMS



SP Canada

Je participe au Mois de la
sensibilisation à la SP sur la
Colline parlementaire afin
d'appuyer le mouvement

#prioriteSP



Policy Priorities

**A Stronger
Future for
Canadians
with MS**

MS Canada



**Un avenir
meilleur pour
les Canadiennes
et Canadiens
atteints de SP**

SP Canada



NEW Research Complement

MS Canada

Partner to Prevent MS: Canada's opportunity to lead

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a lifelong neurological disease that often begins early in adulthood. For the first time, science shows us that preventing MS is within reach. With one of the highest MS rates in the world and decades of excellence in research and care, Canada is well positioned to act during this early window.



Key Action:

A federal investment of \$15 million, in partnership with MS Canada, will support prevention-focused MS research to improve the long-term health of Canadians through earlier detection and earlier intervention, and strengthen Canada's leadership in science and innovation.



Why MS? *The Impact on Canadians*

Approximately 12 Canadians are diagnosed with MS every day – many as they are just beginning their careers, families, and full participation in society. MS is unpredictable, episodic and progressive, and has an immense impact on the day-to-day lives of Canadians, their families, and communities.

A major scientific advancement has been the identification of the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) as a required trigger for MS. This discovery has shifted the focus to the earliest stage of MS risk – making prevention a scientifically credible goal by enabling intervention before irreversible damage occurs.

While MS remains a serious and life altering disease, it is also one of the most deeply studied conditions in brain health. Progress in MS research has revealed fundamental insights into how the immune system interacts with the brain – knowledge now shaping research in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and post-viral conditions such as long COVID.

Time matters in MS. The disease often begins years before symptoms appear – **prevention is the opportunity to stop MS to maintain health, independence, and time** – and Canada can help lead that shift.

MS Canada

Travailler en collaboration pour prévenir la SP : une occasion pour le Canada de montrer l'exemple

La sclérose en plaques (SP) est une maladie neurologique chronique qui se déclare souvent au début de l'âge adulte. Pour la première fois, la science nous montre que la prévention de la SP constitue un objectif réaliste. Affichant l'un des taux de SP les plus élevés du monde et comptant à son actif des décennies d'excellence au chapitre de la recherche et des soins, le Canada est bien placé pour passer à l'action relativement à la prise en charge précoce de la SP.



Mesure clé :

Un investissement de 15 millions de dollars par le gouvernement fédéral, en partenariat avec SP Canada, permettrait de financer des travaux de recherche axés sur la prévention de la SP et sur l'obtention de meilleurs résultats en matière de santé grâce à un dépistage et à un traitement précoces de cette maladie. Cette injection de fonds permettrait aussi de renforcer le leadership du Canada dans les domaines de la science et de l'innovation.



Pourquoi la SP? *Des retombées importantes pour les gens de notre pays*

En moyenne, chaque jour, 12 personnes de notre pays apprennent qu'elles ont la SP – et la plupart d'entre elles reçoivent un tel diagnostic au moment où elles se lancent dans une carrière, fondent une famille et commencent à apporter leur pleine contribution à la société. Maladie épisodique et progressive, la SP se manifeste de façon imprévisible et a un impact considérable sur le quotidien des Canadiennes et Canadiens qui en sont atteints et sur celui de leur famille, ainsi que sur la collectivité en général.

Au chapitre de la recherche, une avancée considérable a été accomplie lorsqu'il a été établi que le virus d'Epstein-Barr (VEB) constitue l'un des facteurs déclencheurs de la SP. Cette découverte a amené le milieu de la recherche à accorder une attention particulière aux tout premiers facteurs de risque de la SP – ce qui fait de la prévention de cette maladie un objectif scientifiquement crédible, consistant à intervenir avant la formation de lésions irréversibles.

Alors qu'elle demeure une affection sérieuse qui peut bouleverser la vie des gens qui en sont atteints, la SP constitue aussi l'une des maladies les plus étudiées au chapitre de la santé du cerveau. Des progrès réalisés dans le domaine de la recherche ont permis d'obtenir des données fondamentales sur la façon dont le système immunitaire interagit avec le cerveau – et ce sont ces nouvelles connaissances qui orientent actuellement la recherche portant sur la maladie d'Alzheimer, la maladie de Parkinson et diverses affections post-virales, telle la COVID longue.

Le temps compte quand il est question de la SP. Dans bien des cas, la SP est une maladie qui fait son apparition des années avant la survenue des premiers symptômes. La **prévention constitue donc la stratégie à privilégier pour stopper la SP et favoriser le maintien de la santé et de l'autonomie au fil du temps** – et le Canada peut jouer un rôle de premier plan quant à la concrétisation de cette orientation.

Overview of Policy Priorities



Sarah, diagnosed in 2014, PEI

RECOMMENDATION 1:



Invest to prevent MS and boost Canadian leadership in science and research

With Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) identified as a key trigger for MS, Canada has a unique opportunity to lead global prevention efforts. A \$15 million federal investment, in partnership with MS Canada, will accelerate research toward a cure, reduce long-term healthcare costs, and strengthen Canada's leadership in science and innovation.

RECOMMENDATION 2:



Modernize the Disability Tax Credit to bring costs down for Canadians

Modernize the Disability Tax Credit to reduce costs for Canadians with MS by updating eligibility to reflect the episodic nature of the disease, simplifying the application process, and aligning it with other disability benefits for more coordinated support.

Make MS Research a Priority

Invest to prevent MS and boost Canadian leadership in science and research

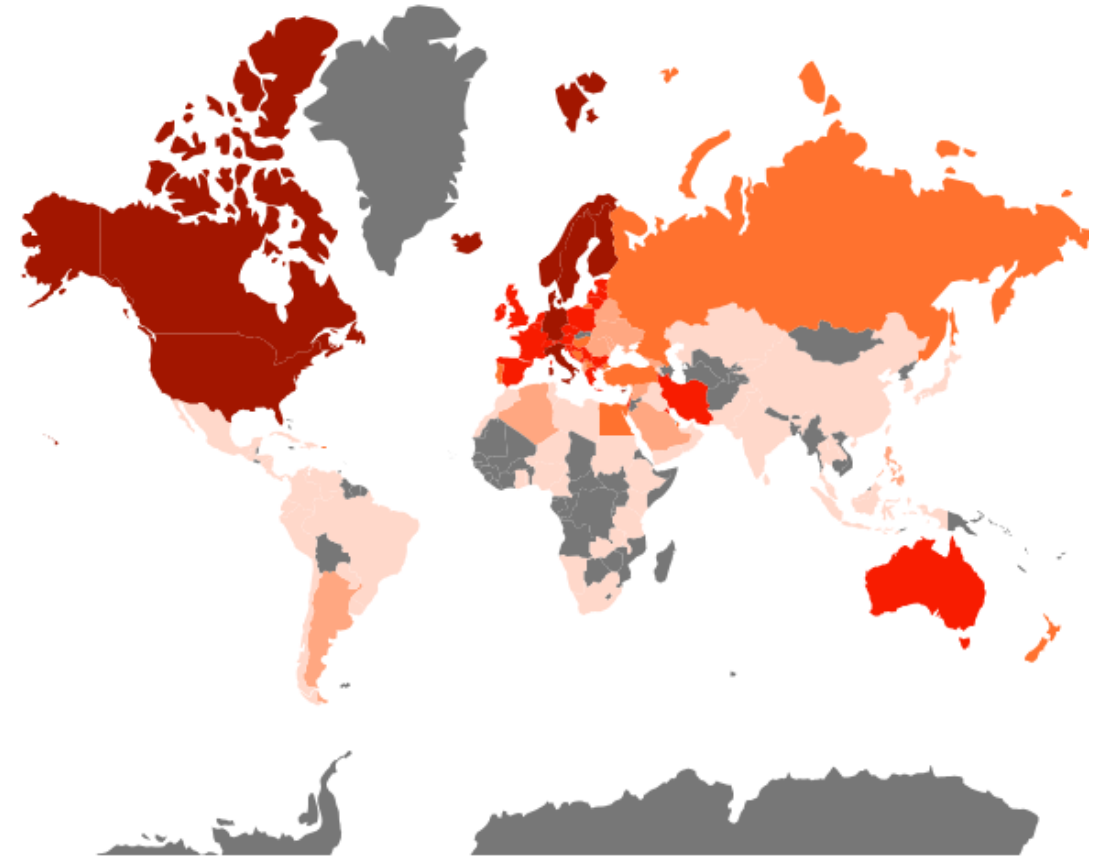


Key Action:

A federal investment of \$15 million, in partnership with MS Canada, will support prevention-focused MS research to improve the long-term health of Canadians through earlier detection and earlier intervention, and strengthen Canada's leadership in science and innovation.

Canada has one of the highest rates of MS in the world

- **1 in 400** people live with MS in Canada
- **12 Canadians** are diagnosed with MS every day



Number of people with MS.

Prevalence per 100,000 people

Unknown

26 - 50

101 - 200

0 - 25

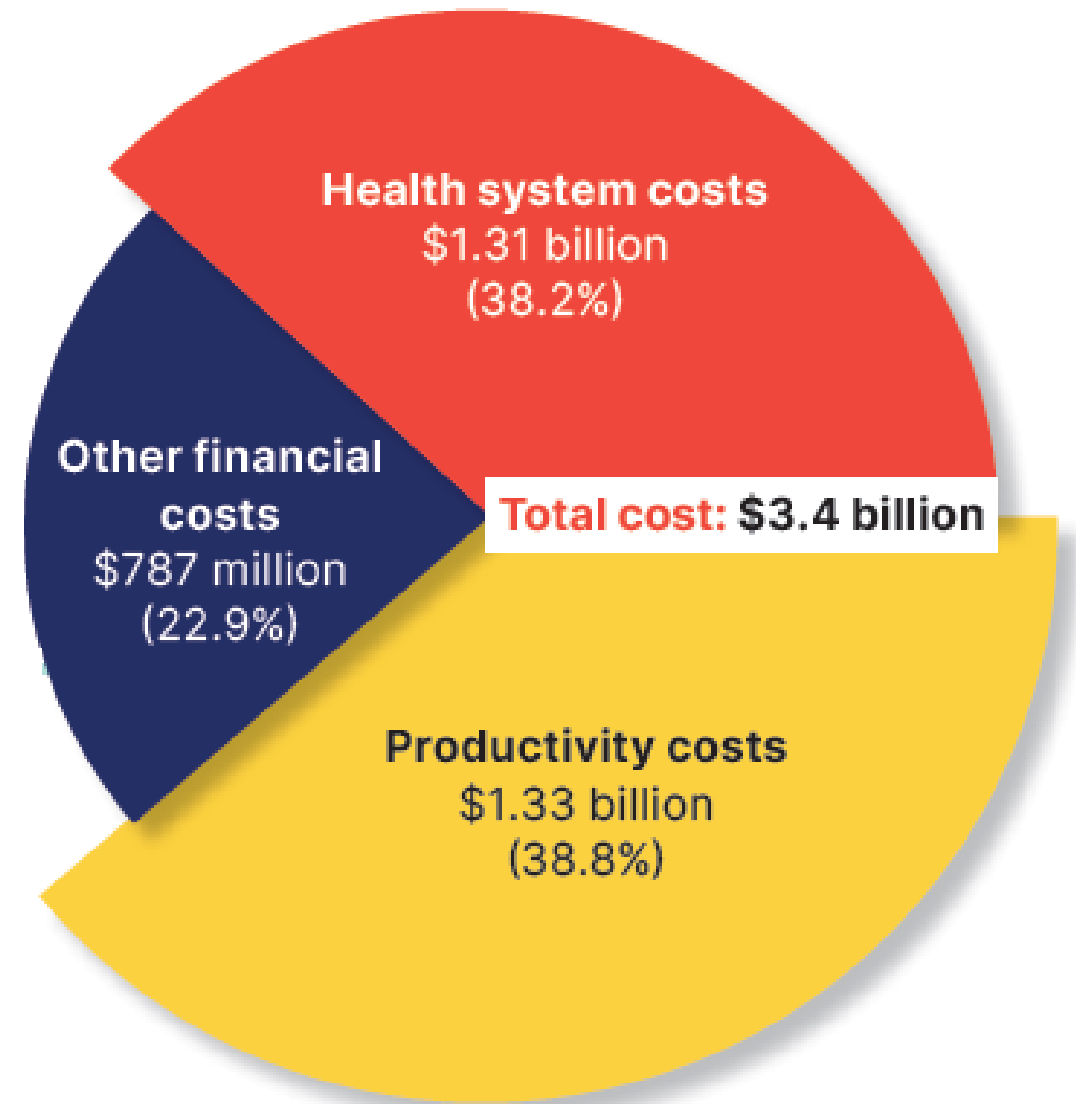
51 - 100

> 200

Atlas of MS - <https://www.atlasofms.org>

The Cost of MS in Canada

- MS is most often **diagnosed between ages 20 and 49**
- **Women are 3x more likely to be diagnosed with MS**



Deloitte Access Economics Report - <https://www.deloitte.com/au/en/services/economics/analysis/responding-to-covid-19-impact-on-multiple-sclerosis.html>

Fostering Research Capacity

MS Canada Research Portfolio

RESEARCH AT MS CANADA

\$34 Million supporting
108 research awards

\$233M+ invested in MS
research since 1948

**Enabled by donors and
community fundraising**

Commitment expressed as % of funding

endMS National Training Program

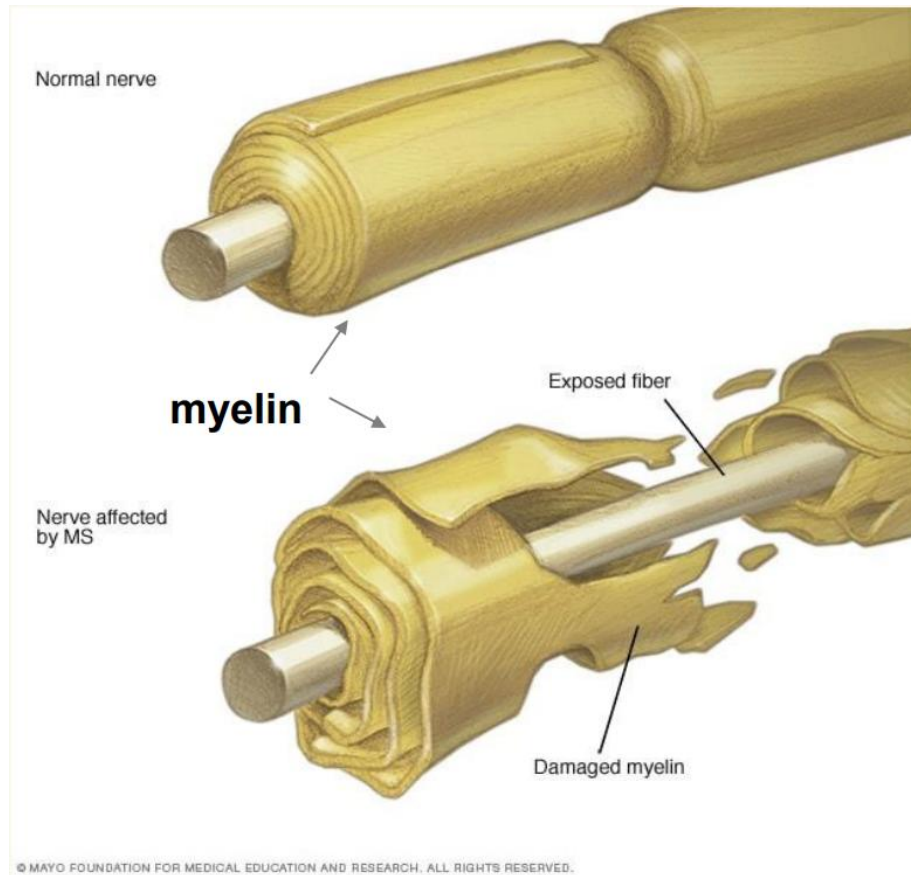
- **400+ trainees** supported across Canada
- **16 summer schools** at 12 institutions
- National **mentorship network** (SPRINT)
- Strong **alumni pipeline** building the next generation of MS researchers

MS research is delivering real results

In less than **two decades**:

- Treatment options have expanded **from 4 to nearly 20 therapies**
- Disability onset **delayed by over a decade** through earlier, targeted intervention
- Treatment advances have led to a **~30% reduction in MS-related mortality**

What is MS?

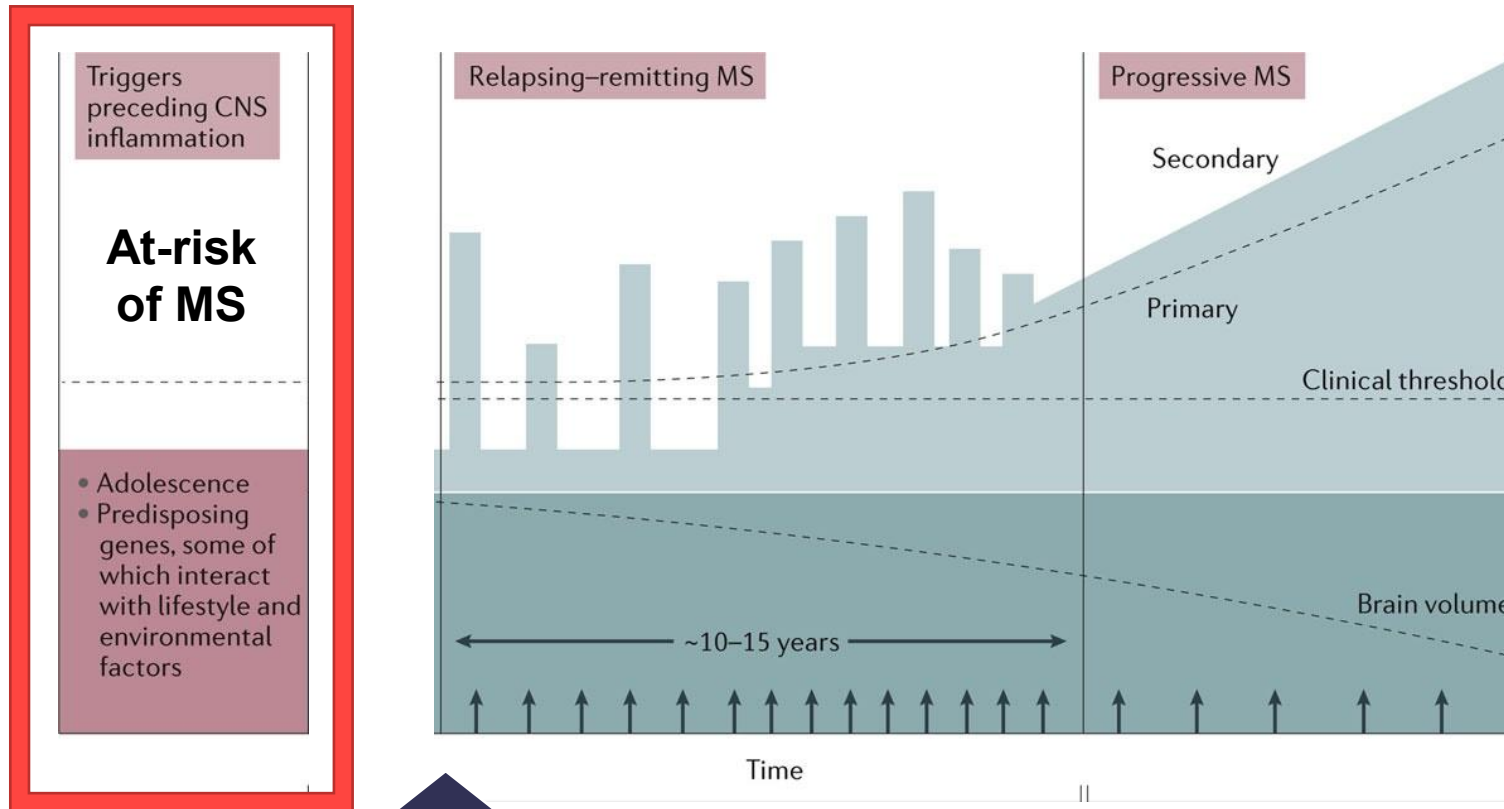


MS is a neurological disease of the central nervous system (brain, spinal cord, optic nerve)

- In MS, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks myelin, the protective covering of nerve fibres.
- Myelin is needed to effectively send messages to and from the brain.
- Damage to myelin can result in loss of nerve fibres and over time these changes contribute to disease progression.

Researchers are investigating the pathways involved in repair, regeneration and protection of myelin and nerve fibres and developing potential therapies

Preventing MS



MS symptom onset

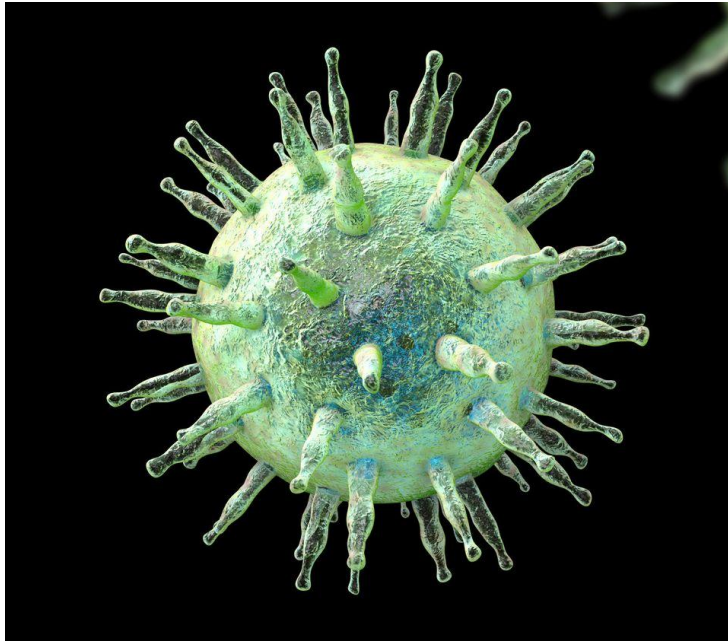
Risk Factors of MS



Researchers have identified a number of environmental or lifestyle risk factors for MS:

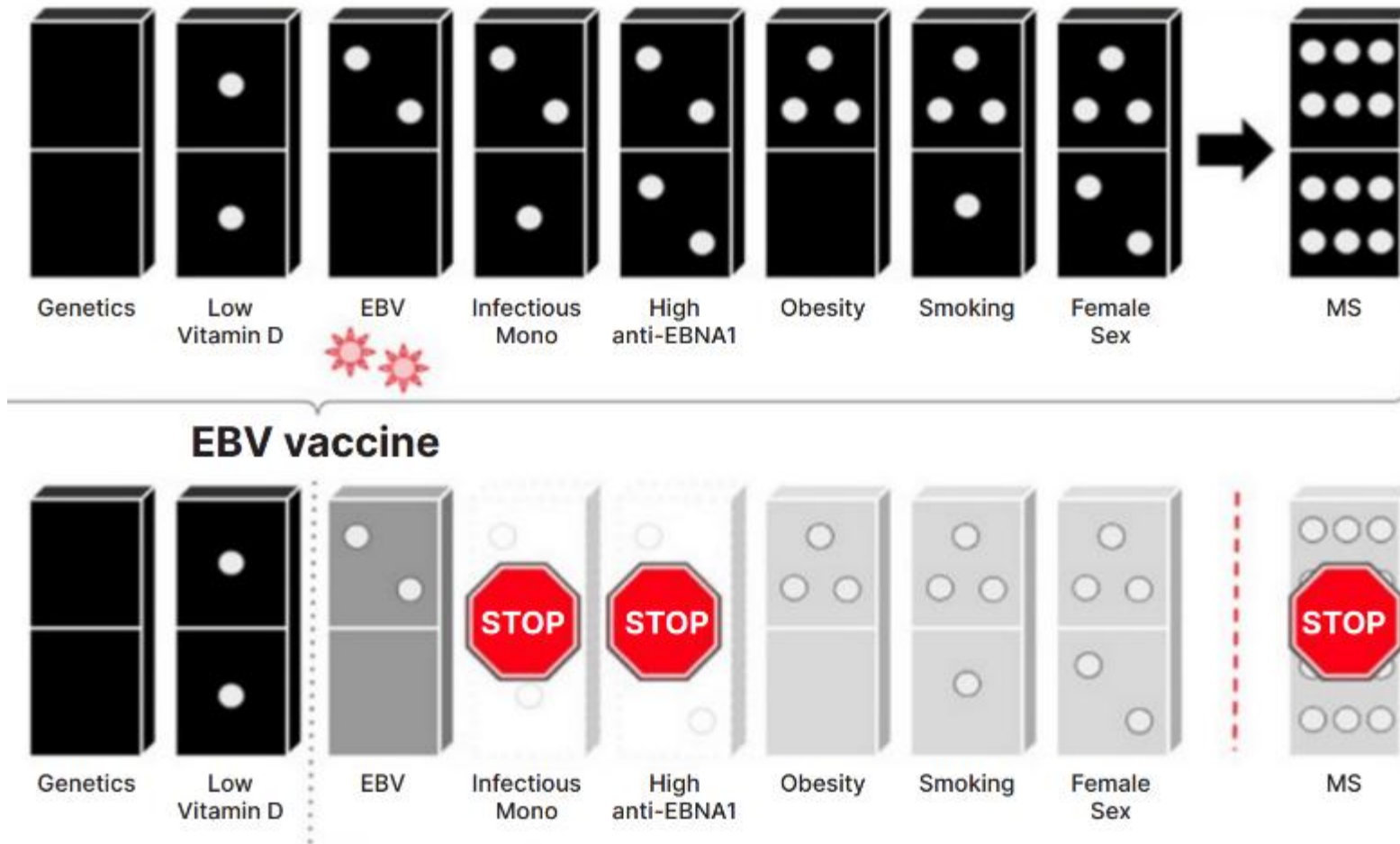
- Smoking
- Low vitamin D
- Adolescent obesity
- Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) infection

What is Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV)?



- A human herpes virus that infects over 95% of the population during the life span, typically in childhood or adolescence
- Infection is transmitted mainly through saliva and can lead to infectious mononucleosis (or 'mono')
- EBV infects B cells of the immune system and epithelial cells lining the mouth and upper throat, remains latent or dormant and can become reactivated
- Evidence shows EBV is a necessary and early trigger for MS onset – provides a 32x increased risk of MS

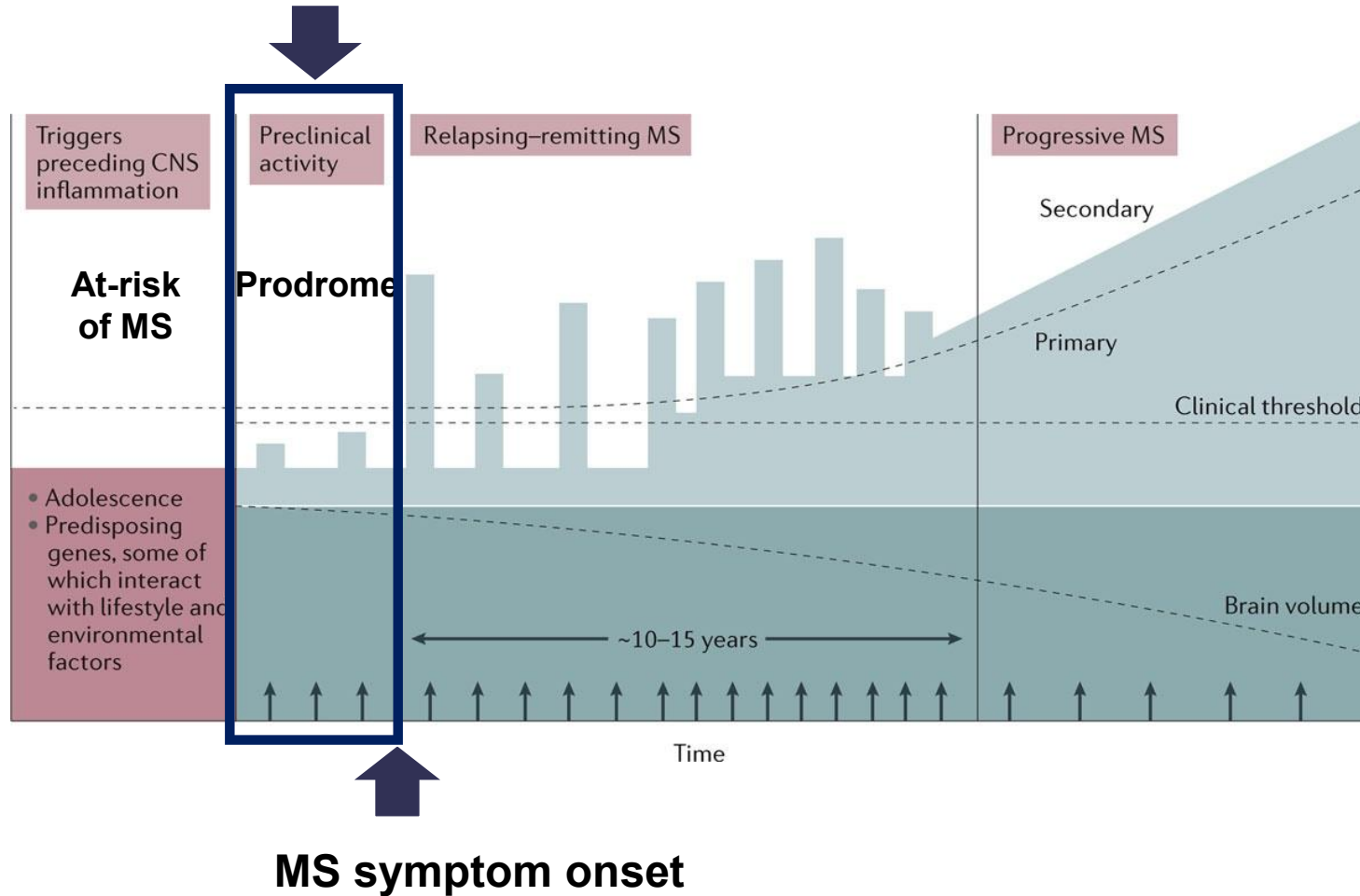
How Might We Prevent MS?



Targeting EBV to Prevent MS

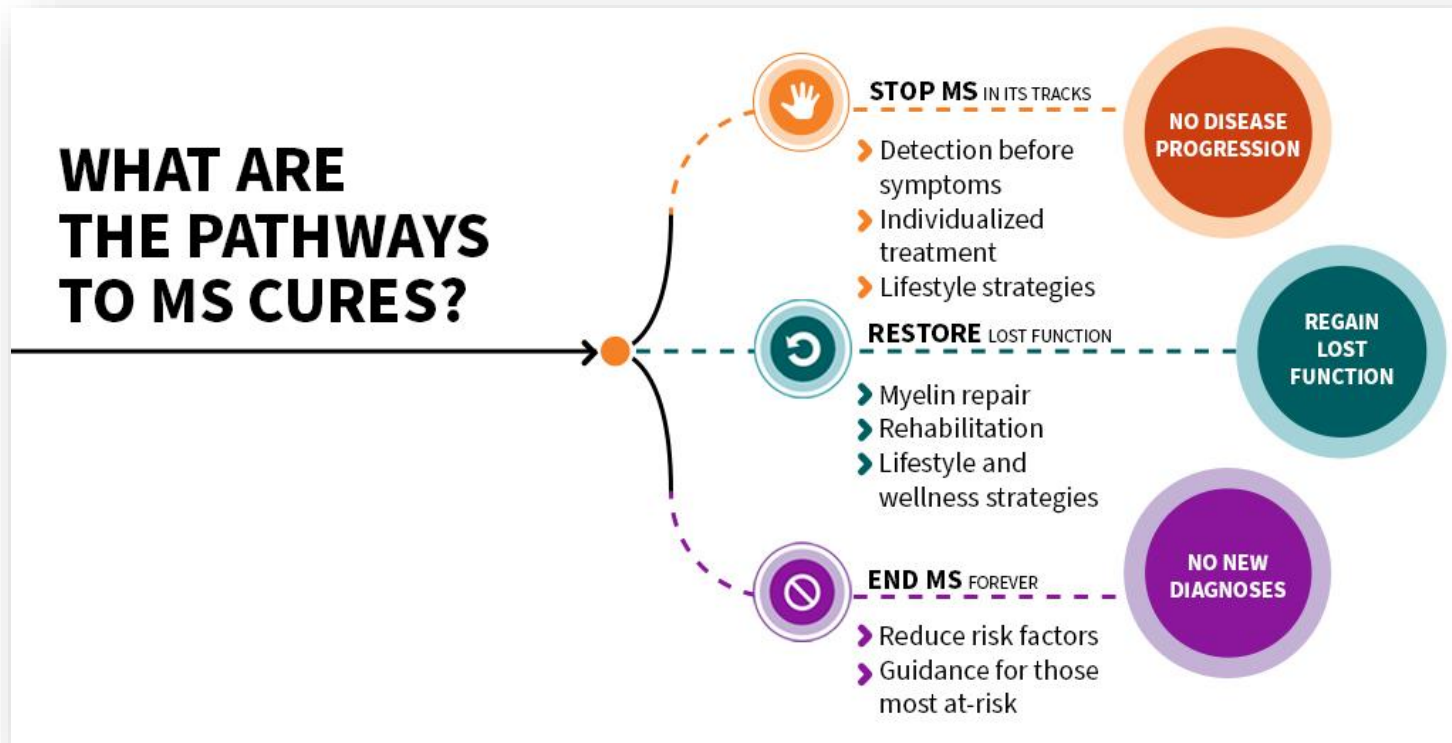
- **No approved EBV vaccines to-date** although multiple candidates are in early-phase clinical trials.
 - Ex: mRNA-based Vaccines (Moderna), Nanoparticle Vaccine (ModeX Therapeutics / Merck), Protein Subunit Vaccine (NIAID/NIH), and Antigen targets
 - Vaccine development is challenging due to EBV's complex life cycle and immune evasion strategies; lack of understanding of the mechanisms in which EBV may be involved as a risk factor for MS; considerations on vaccine safety, feasibility and timing
- **No approved EBV-specific antivirals**; several strategies being explored for MS including repurposed Antivirals (e.g. Famciclovir), immunotherapies, and CNS-penetrant antivirals.

Earlier Window to Prevent MS?



- **Evidence for a MS prodrome** – set of early signs or symptoms indicating the start of a disease, before clinical onset of symptoms.
- MS prodrome **may be 5-15 years before MS symptoms and onset** (i.e. higher hospitalization, physician service use, prescriptions, psychiatry and dermatology visits, and headache/migraine).
- **Understanding the prodrome would provide an earlier window to prevent MS onset.**

Pathways to MS Cures



- Research roadmap created by scientific experts, healthcare providers, and people affected by MS from USA, Canada and UK to **coordinate global efforts to accelerate scientific breakthroughs leading to MS cures.**
- **Consists of three cure pathways – STOP, RESTORE, END**
- Published in 2022 and updated in 2024 to account for new scientific advances in the MS field.
- Landscape analysis of international research investment identified a gap in funding for projects related to END pathway – **less than 10% of global research funding is invested in prevention.**

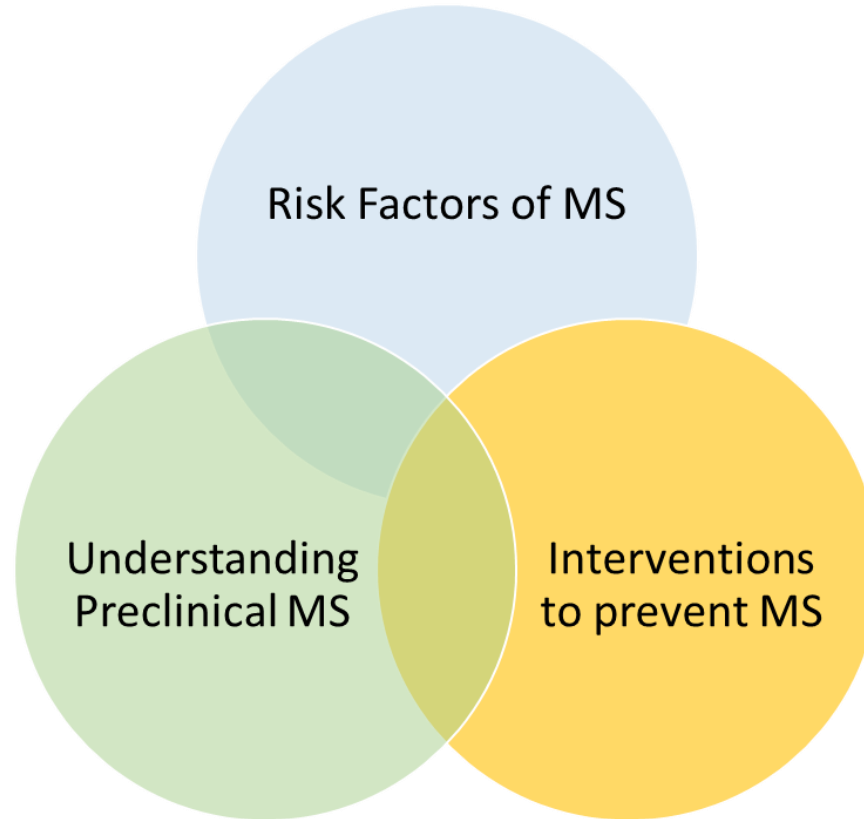
Global MS Prevention Initiative

MS Canada and MS Australia lead new international effort on prevention and ultra-early detection of MS

\$2.5 million
MS Australia

\$5 million
MS Canada

\$18 million
Government of Australia



Ask: \$15 million
Government of Canada

Boosting Canadian Leadership in Science & Innovation

- MS Canada is well positioned to advance global research priorities in MS as outlined in the Pathways to Cures Roadmap.
- MS Canada has the leadership, track record and infrastructure to build capacity and coordinate funding of MS research. We have also cultivated a network of world-class researchers, and continued support of this network will put Canada at the forefront of discovery in the field of MS.
- The shifting geopolitics in the US and major cuts in research budget (e.g. US Department of Defense's MS Research Program) highlight the importance of continued investment in MS research. By building our own robust, stable funding model, Canada can ensure that MS research is guided by our priorities and positioned to deliver both domestic health and economic benefits and global impact.
- Investing in research has the potential to save the Canadian health care system and broader society billions of dollars annually in the future. It will also strengthen Canadian leadership in science and innovation, and most importantly provide hope that MS cures are possible within our lifetimes.

Income Security

Modernize the Disability Tax Credit to bring down costs for Canadians

The Opportunity

Canadians with disabilities and their families face disproportionate financial challenges. People with disabilities are more than twice as likely to live in poverty as those without disabilities. Accessing financial support and managing the high costs of MS is a challenge. People living with MS often require expensive medication, rehabilitation treatments, and transportation, as well as feeding, mobility, and bathing aids.

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a cornerstone of federal disability support, yet many with MS are excluded due to outdated criteria. This limits access to other benefits like the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and the new Canada Disability Benefit.

Income Security

Modernize the Disability Tax Credit to bring down costs for Canadians



Key Action

Make the DTC work to bring down costs for Canadians with MS.

- Revise the DTC's eligibility criteria to recognize the fluctuating nature of episodic disabilities like MS with a multitude of severe and prolonged symptoms, which significantly impact daily life.
- Simplify the DTC application process through the creation of a more straightforward application with clear instructions, plain language, and fewer repetitive questions.
- Coordinate the DTC with other provincial and federal disability benefits to provide a comprehensive support system for persons with disabilities.

Denis, diagnosed in 1996, Quebec



Income Security

Modernize the Disability Tax Credit to bring down costs for Canadians

Why It Matters

As the DTC increasingly determines access to programs like the Canada Disability Benefit, urgent reform is needed to ensure fair access for people with MS. Income security is fundamental to all Canadians, including people with MS and their families. Bringing down costs for Canadians with MS will enhance their quality of life, help them make ends meet, and increase productivity. Modernizing the DTC will build a more inclusive and equitable support system.



Amanda
diagnosed in 2014, Alberta



"It's really difficult for people living with MS to fall under these very stringent guidelines that the Disability Tax Credit requires because it's just not what our lives look like. Plus, the application process is long, time-consuming, confusing, and usually comes with a cost. I have to ask my very busy neurologist to fill out long forms, taking time away from providing medical care."

earnscliffe

APRIL 2026

Day on the Hill 2026

Political Update

Thinking forward.



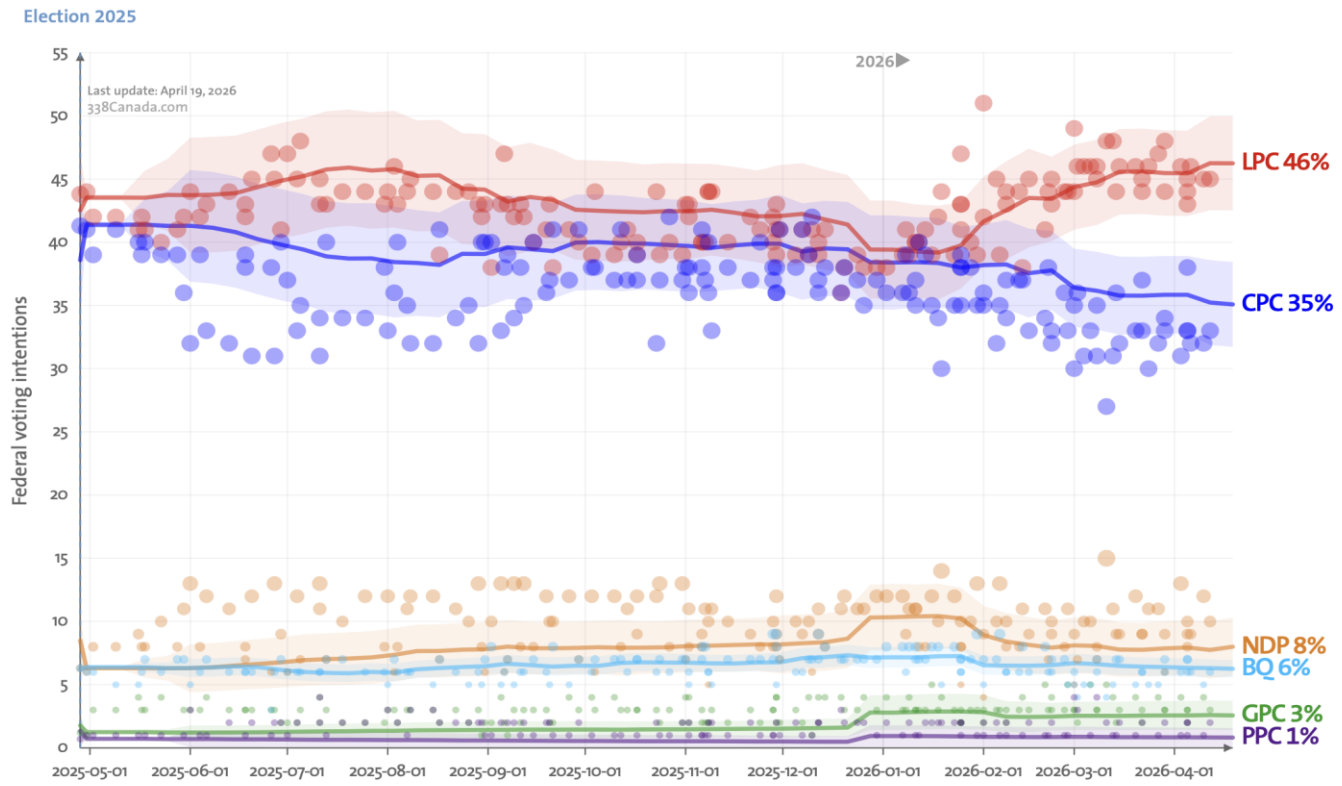
Let's level set

Last year at a
glance

FEDERAL POLLING



National



As of April 19, 2026

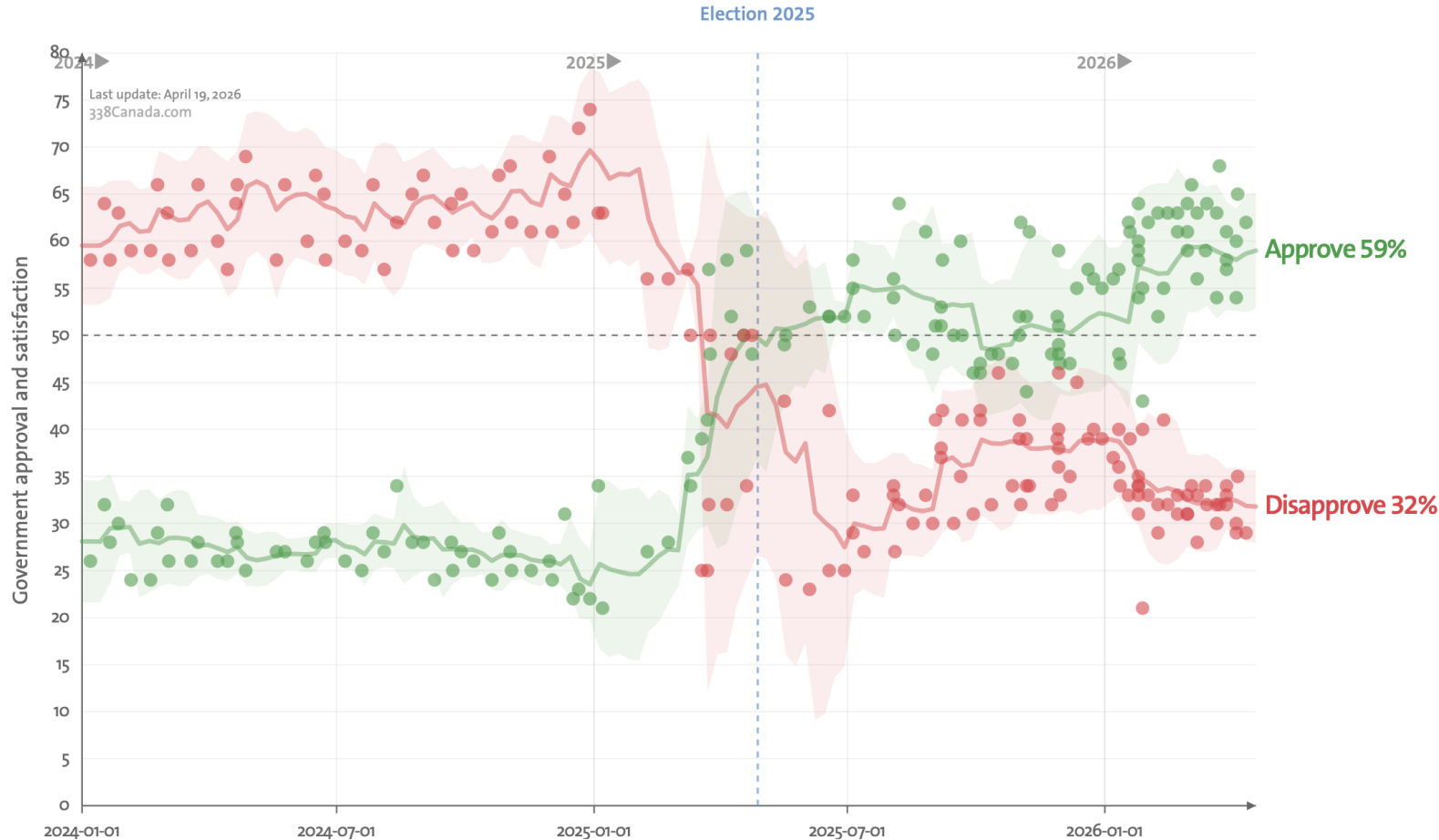
**summary of all federal polls*

338canada.com

APPROVAL RATING

Approve 59% ± 6%

Disapprove 32% ± 4%



As of April 19, 2026

**aggregates government approval satisfaction*

338canada.com

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

One year after rescuing Canada's Liberal Party from electoral disaster, Mark Carney has strengthened his hold on power.

The rookie prime minister clinched a majority in special elections on April 13, bolstered by five defections during the past five months from progressive and conservative parties. Liberal candidates Danielle Martin and Doly Begum both claimed victory in their Toronto districts — putting Carney over the top. Much later in the evening, Tatiana Auguste completed the trifecta in Terrebonne, Quebec — a razor-thin win that bested last year's one-vote margin in a riding where Liberals typically do not compete.

Prime Minister Mark Carney would likely keep — and possibly enlarge — his new-found Liberal majority if a general election was held today.

The latest forecast pegs the Liberals' chances of winning a majority of seats in the House of Commons at 96 per cent, while the Conservatives under Pierre Poilievre have a one per cent chance of clinching power, and only through a minority government.

According to the analysis updated on April 17, the Liberals would receive around 45 per cent of the votes if a general election were held now, compared with under 34.6 per cent for the Conservatives, 8.3 per cent for the NDP, and 2.4 per cent for the Greens.

LANDSCAPE CONT'D

The new forecast comes days after the Carney Liberals secured a majority in the House of Commons following three byelection wins on April 13. That majority, however, was only made possible by five MPs — four Conservatives and one New Democrat — who have crossed the floor to join the Liberals since November, leaving the government with a narrow hold at 174 seats in the 343-seat Commons.

The latest projection suggests that, if an election were held today, the Liberals would expand their position to 191 seats, while the Conservatives would fall to roughly 112. The Bloc Québécois is projected to secure 23 seats, with the New Democrats at 14 and the Greens holding two.

The scale of this projected gain would be unprecedented in the current political context, effectively insulating Prime Minister Carney from near-term electoral risk and providing a clear mandate through to 2029.

With that runway, the government is well positioned to advance its “Canada Strong” agenda — including a more assertive industrial policy, expanded use of strategic procurement, and targeted measures aimed at reducing Canada’s economic reliance on the United States.

It also signals a shift toward a more interventionist federal role in key sectors such as critical minerals, energy infrastructure, and defence supply chains, with potential implications for cross-border trade dynamics and the upcoming CUSMA review.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Policy stability with speed

A strengthened majority reduces internal friction and enables faster movement on major files — particularly where previous minority dynamics slowed execution (procurement, industrial strategy, major projects approvals).

CUSMA review positioning

A more confident Liberal government is likely to take a firmer stance heading into the 2026 review — prioritizing Canadian supply chain resilience, enforcement of existing rules, and potential recalibration of sectoral protections.

“Buy Canadian” acceleration

Expect expanded use of strategic procurement tools and tighter definitions of Canadian content, with real implications for foreign suppliers and integrated North American supply chains.

Industrial policy is no longer incremental

The government now has the political capital to move more aggressively on:

- Critical minerals
- Energy and resource infrastructure
- Defence

CORE PRIORITIES

U.S. trade and security relationship: Tensions from the 2025 tariff measures and ongoing retaliatory actions persist, with negotiations expected to run in parallel to preparations for the 2026 CUSMA review. Early signals suggest a more bilateral U.S.–Canada dynamic, particularly on sector-specific irritants (energy, autos, agriculture).

Global trade and partnerships: Canada is accelerating diversification efforts, advancing strategic partnerships and agreements across the Indo-Pacific and Europe, while deepening ties with key partners including Mexico, Indonesia, and Nordic and Eastern European allies—framed increasingly through a national security and supply chain resilience lens.

Interprovincial trade: The Prime Minister’s “**One Canadian Economy**” agenda is gaining traction, with a focus on reducing internal trade barriers, improving labour mobility, and strengthening east-west supply chains to offset external trade risks.

Affordability: The government continues to prioritize cost-of-living relief, with a focus on telecom competition, grocery pricing transparency, and housing supply as primary levers.

Housing: The “**Build Canada Homes**” initiative is being operationalized, with a strong emphasis on federal-provincial partnerships, scaling housing supply, and aligning infrastructure funding with housing outcomes.

Defence: Canada is moving toward its **2% of GDP NATO commitment**, with the establishment of a Defence Investment Agency and a forthcoming **Defence Industrial Strategy (expected mid-2026)** focused on domestic capacity, procurement reform, and alignment with allies.

Talent and immigration: The government is recalibrating immigration levels to “sustainable” targets while prioritizing high-skilled talent attraction, particularly in critical sectors like AI, clean tech, and advanced manufacturing.

Government transformation: A central focus on fiscal discipline is emerging, with efforts to reduce program spending growth, streamline approvals (notably through the **Major Projects Office**), and accelerate digital government modernization to improve service delivery and project timelines.

SPRING ECONOMIC STATEMENT: APRIL 28TH

Fiscal discipline with targeted investments

Spending focused on **defence, housing, and economic security**
Limited fiscal room for new health and disability programs

Affordability remains the central lens

Continued emphasis on **cost-of-living relief and housing supply**
➤ *Implication:* Position MS as an **affordability issue** (income loss, out-of-pocket costs)

Targeted—not expansive—social policy

Healthcare and disability programs maintained, but **not significantly expanded**
➤ *Implication:* Limited opportunity for **new disease-specific funding**

Canada Disability Benefit: maintained, not enhanced

Focus on **implementation and access**, not increased benefit levels
➤ *Implication:* Ongoing **gaps in adequacy** for Canadians living with MS

Healthcare focused on system performance

Investments in **workforce, access, and efficiency**
➤ *Implication:* Align MS asks with **timely diagnosis, specialist access, and system savings**

Innovation tied to economic growth

Continued support for **life sciences and commercialization**
➤ *Implication:* Position MS research within **Canada's innovation and competitiveness agenda**

ALIGNING MS WITH CORE GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES: FALL BUDGET

Affordability First

- Position MS as a **cost-of-living issue**
- Highlight out-of-pocket costs, income loss, and gaps in supports

Workforce & Productivity

- Emphasize keeping people with MS **in the labour force**
- Link supports to **reduced absenteeism and economic participation**

Episodic Disability as a Policy Gap

- Use MS to demonstrate need for **modernized, flexible benefits**
- Advocate for systems that support **return-to-work without penalty**

Health System Efficiency

Frame asks around:

- earlier diagnosis
- specialist access
- reduced long-term system costs

Research = Economic Growth

Position MS research within:

- **Life Sciences Strategy**
- innovation and competitiveness

Leverage (but Improve) the Canada Disability Benefit

- Acknowledge as a foundation
- Push for improvements in **adequacy, access, and work compatibility**

Day on the Hill 2026

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