

### 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.

#### Why now? Prevention as a Rare Opportunity

**Decades of strategic investment have brought the field to a tipping point.** MS Canada invested in prevention long before it was globally prioritized—even when it represented only 6% of global funding—placing the organization at the forefront of today's breakthroughs.

**Global alignment has created a moment Canada must seize.** The 2025 international workshop hosted by MS Canada and MS Australia produced a unified scientific roadmap, and the new Global MS Prevention Initiative—with contributions of \$5M (MS Canada), \$2.5M (MS Australia), and \$18M (Government of Australia)—positions Canada to coordinate and accelerate worldwide prevention research.

### Modernize the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) to bring costs down for Canadians (6 minutes)

**Key Action:** 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.

#### MS is episodic and progressive, with symptoms that fluctuate and often aren't visible.

- The current DTC eligibility criteria don't reflect that reality. Many people are denied because the system is still built around a very narrow, outdated definition of disability — one that often requires near-total impairment.

#### What Canadians with MS Say

- Nearly 40% find DTC criteria unclear and not reflective of MS.
- Major barriers include documentation challenges, high costs, and burdensome renewals.

#### The Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) Depends on Fixing the DTC

- The CDB is a positive step, but its reliance on the DTC as the eligibility gateway excludes thousands of Canadians with episodic and progressive disabilities like MS.
- The CDB uses the Accessible Canada Act definition of disability—which includes episodic disabilities like MS—but the DTC does not. Updating DTC eligibility is essential to align federal programs and ensure fair access to the CDB.

#### Spring Economic Update 2026: Welcome access steps, but eligibility gap remains

- The update proposes steps to reduce paperwork, including a streamlined DTC application pathway for individuals with a formal diagnosis of certain long-lasting medical conditions (as identified by CRA experience)—and expands who can certify the DTC. These are welcome steps to address administrative barriers.
- However, the update **does not change the core eligibility rules** and does not resolve misalignment with the Accessible Canada Act definition used for the CDB (which includes episodic disability).
- **Our ask remains:** modernize DTC eligibility so episodic disabilities like MS are assessed fairly, enabling equitable access to the CDB and related supports.

#### Modernization Brings Down Costs and Improves Equity

- Canadians with MS face high out-of-pocket costs for medications, mobility aids, and care.
- Modernizing the DTC will lower costs for Canadians with MS by unlocking access to the CDB and other supports, reducing financial strain, and creating a more equitable system.

### Discussion with Parliamentarian (7 minutes)

#### Closing (3 minutes)

- Thank You
- Action Item for Parliamentarian: Research Letter of Support
- Photo