

MS Canada

|

OPPORTUNITY

Vice President, Programs - MS Canada

Location: Anywhere in Canada

Our stories may be different, but our MS journey is shared.



Over 53,000 Canadians accessed support from our programs and services.

More than 40,000 people supported MS Canada through donations or events.

Almost 40,000 actions were taken to influence government policies to help people living with MS.

Almost 16,000 people participated in MS Canada events.

More than 3,000 people volunteered for MS Canada.

Almost 6,000 people follow MS Canada social media channels.

About MS Canada

<https://mscanada.ca/>

MS Canada is inspired by the vision of a world free of multiple sclerosis. Working with researchers, donors, partners, volunteers, and people living with MS to bring about positive change, MS Canada is improving the lives of Canadians today or supporting high-quality research that aims to end MS tomorrow. MS Canada works as a community to connect the MS community to programs, information, research and to each other while they are on their MS journey.

Impact Goals

Discover. Innovate. Act. lays out the impact goals which are a roadmap for MS Canada's journey to accomplish its vision: a world free of MS.

- Advance treatment and care
- Enhance well-being
- Understand and halt disease progression
- Prevent MS

Financial Highlights

Of the \$44,107,000 raised* in 2022:

\$22,158,000 (50%)
funded life-saving research, programs, and advocacy

\$16,456,000 (37%)
invested in community fundraising activities

**Combined Society & Foundation*

As a community driven organization, MS Canada generates revenue from corporate sponsors, individual donors, government and through community events that take place across the country. The generosity of our partners makes our work possible. Corporate sponsors, individual donors, and event participants generously help raise money to make all this work possible.



How does MS Canada help people affected by MS?

- **Support:** Canadians affected by MS need a support system they can access right away. To make an immediate impact, we deliver programs and services for physical and mental wellness, peer support, equipment assistance, and education directly to the community.
- **Advocacy:** Canada has one of the highest rates of MS globally, with an average of 12 new diagnoses every day. To raise awareness of the impact of this disease and help those living with MS to enjoy a better quality of life, we encourage collective action, MS Canada reaches out to governments, partners, and other organizations, highlighting the need for better healthcare, financial support for people with MS, and public programs and practices that benefit the MS community.
- **Research:** The more we know about this complex disease, the closer we can get to finding a cure. For over 75 years we've invested in research, and we have witnessed unprecedented and accelerated progress, especially over the past 15. Today, there are 19 disease-modifying therapies for MS approved by Health Canada; improved diagnosis of MS through imaging, and growing evidence supporting a prodromal stage of MS that occurs as early as 5-10 years prior to MS symptom onset. Each year, MS Canada invests about \$10 million in biological and clinical research aimed to prevent MS, stop the disease from getting worse, develop treatments, and enhance the well-being of those living with MS. MS Canada shares accurate information on MS research so anyone can access knowledge and apply it to their personal journeys.

Mission & Values

With sights firmly set on a world free of MS, the mission of MS Canada is to connect and empower the MS community to create positive change. The MS Canada community is vibrant and diverse and includes people living with MS, families, friends, volunteers, donors, researchers, clinicians, and many others. By harnessing collective energies, people affected by MS will have the systems and support needed to live rich and full lives. MS Canada also makes sure that researchers have the resources to continue learning about the disease and improve treatment and care.

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STRATEGIC PLAN



MS Canada's efforts are guided by five core values.

- **Impact-driven.** We make a difference.
- **Collaborative.** We work together.
- **Compassionate.** We help.
- **Bold.** We think big.
- **Resilient.** We don't give up.

The Role: Vice President, Programs

MS Canada provides a portfolio of programs for people affected by MS including:

- Knowledge and information
- Education
- Wellness
- Peer support

In 2023, MS Canada established the Programs Advisory Working Group (PAWG). Comprised of board members, international partners, programs experts and individuals with lived experience, the PAWG was tasked with reimagining MS programs to ensure meaningful and impactful supports for those living with and affected by MS at all stages of their personal journeys.

Reporting to the CEO who is located in Calgary, and working with a geographically dispersed leadership team, the newly created VP Programs role works collaboratively across the organization to drive the design, implementation and delivery of innovative and relevant programs. The VP Programs provides leadership and mentorship to the Programs team of approximately 25 people in executing the following responsibilities:



Key Responsibilities

- Contributing to annual enterprise planning, ensuring the community portfolio has ambitious goals to advance community action.
- Developing credibility, build trust and establish strong, positive and productive relationships with all members of MS Canada’s senior and executive leadership, especially the President and Chief Executive Officer, the SVP Community, the MS Canada Board and related Committees, executive team colleagues, direct reports and all extended team members.
- Building positive and meaningful relationships with leadership volunteers, and community/global partners to maximize program impact. Fostering a collaborative and integrated approach to planning, execution, risk, projects, and key results.
- Driving partnerships and delivering value through a deep understanding of best practices, completing sector mapping to identify partnerships that will make a difference to MS Canada’s mission impact.
- Identifying gaps in current program delivery based on the PAWG’s findings and their own analysis. Thoroughly reviewing recommendations and plans put forward by the Programs Advisory Working Group (PAWG). Developing new and innovative programs aligned to specific goals and measurable outcomes.
- Applying a continuous improvement lens to align with the community’s evolving needs, e.g. digital platforms to improve accessibility and inclusivity, and with a sensitivity to increased risk around mental health since the pandemic.
- Re-evaluating strategies to ensure programs remain impactful, relevant, responsive and tailored to provide support to community members at all stages of their journeys, with emphasis on newly diagnosed and end of life.
- With close ties to research findings and community, creating evidence-based initiatives to inform new program development, decisions and evaluation practices, and ensure continuous improvement of current program offerings.
- Working across the organization to ensure strong measurement and evaluation protocols are in place to assess effectiveness of programs, contributing to the overall impact measurement framework to evaluate long-term impact.

- Overseeing the delivery of programs virtually or in-person through dedicated volunteers, partners and staff. Leveraging the community hubs delivery model to expand the reach of programs in communities across Canada.
- Advancing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) strategies within the portfolio to deepen reach and connectivity of those living with and affected by MS.
- Leading outwards, become a trusted voice and face of MS Canada and a source of advice and influence on programs in Canada and around the world.

The Person

- Advanced degree preferred, 10+ years of experience, ideally with a research background
- Demonstrated success in Program development, implementation, and evaluation
- Exceptional collaboration and communication skills
- Fosters excellent relationships and drives partnerships
- Active member of the executive team and contributes beyond portfolio
- Data-driven, outcome-focused, innovative, systems thinker
- Models behaviours
- Resilient, agile, bold, strategic
- Celebrating and driving IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) lens
- Mentor, coach, strong people leadership skills and community builder

Compensation

A competitive compensation package will be provided. Further details will be discussed in a personal interview.

Express Your Enthusiasm

Leaders is committed to supporting diverse working environments. We seek candidates who will strengthen our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and strongly encourage qualified candidates from Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities, 2SLGBTQI+ people, individuals with disabilities, and other members of equity deserving communities to apply for this opportunity.

If you would like to contribute to the future vision and mission of MS Canada, then we want to hear from you. Please email a convincing cover letter and tailored resume (PDF or Word document only) to **Shalini Bhatt** or **Allan Nelson** at calgary@leadersinternational.com indicating the job title in the subject line of the email.

Leaders International Executive Search

www.leadersinternational.com