

# ALS IS MORE THAN A DIAGNOSIS OR AN INDIVIDUAL TERMINAL ILLNESS.

ALS causes a widespread ripple effect of consequences for all concerned, both physically and emotionally. The reverse is also true. Among ALS clients, quality of life has been found to be more significantly effected by family relationships, social support, as well as psychological and existential factors than by strength and physical function (Simmons, et al., 1999). Similarly, the inner feeling of a caregivers have been shown to be the biggest factor in determining quality of life and effectiveness in coping with ALS (Gauthier, et al., 2001).



ALS Canada's mandate is to Make Moments Matter for those living with this disease by providing physical, financial and emotional support. This important organization has as one of their primary goals to assist individuals to cope not only with the physical ramifications of ALS, but also with the emotional burdens of the disease. A key element is to provide the Gift of Connection through valuable services such as psychological treatment.

Accordingly, ALS Canada has initiated a program of providing psychological support in collaboration with interested registered Psychologists, practicing in various locations throughout Ontario, who are willing to provide pro bono services to individuals with ALS, their caregivers and/or families.

If you are interested and willing to participate in these services please contact Eleanor Leggat, Vice President Support Services ALS Canada at 1-800-267-4257 ext. 215.