

# MILLIONS MISSING CANADA

## Epidemic?

### The medication Ampligen needs to be fast tracked

#### OPEN LETTER TO HEALTH MINISTER

#### GINETTE PETITPAS TAYLOR

Another myalgic encephalomyelitis epidemic?

Blood borne? Researchers find "something being released in the serum"

Dr Byron Hyde: "analog to poliomyelitis"

37.6% increase in diagnosis - over 560,000 Canadians ill

25% housebound or bedridden

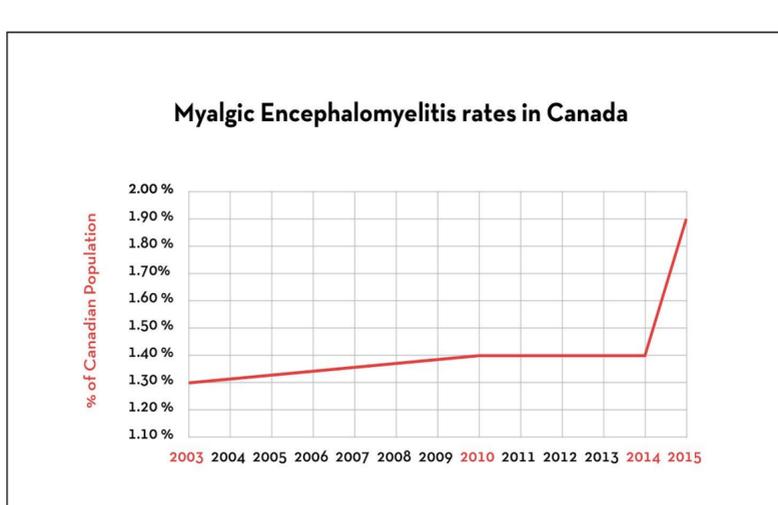
Where is the emergency response?

August 28, 2017

Dear Health Minister Petitpas Taylor,

Canada has the highest [myalgic encephalomyelitis](#) rates (ME) in the world at 1.9%

- More than [560,000 Canadians living with ME](#) in 2015
- A 37.6% increase over the previous year
- The previous (recorded) [Canadian ME epidemic](#) was in 1984
- Ampligen is the only medication approved for ME in [other countries](#)



Data from Canadian Community Health Surveys 2003, 2010, 2014, 2015

#### Myalgic encephalomyelitis is:

- A serious complex multi-system neuroimmune disease
- Occurs in sporadic and epidemic forms
- Believed to be caused, [like poliomyelitis, by enteroviruses](#)
- First identified in 1934 - initially called 'atypical polio'

#### ME disables and kills:

- About 25% so ill they are housebound or bedridden
- Severely ill cannot stand or sit up or speak
- Require a dark room, no sound, no visitors, and a feeding tube
- Average age of [death](#) is 56 years old

#### Recent ME research:

- People with ME are in a "hypometabolic" state
- Has found "[something being released in the serum](#)" of people with ME
- Biomarkers identified: "Remarkably, [17 cytokines](#) were associated with severity"

#### (Mis)Treatment of ME patients:

- [Harmed](#) by contraindicated treatment
- [Lowest quality of life](#)
- Highest poverty - often denied disability benefits
- Highest food insecurity - too ill to shop or prepare food
- Lowest research funding - by far - due to systemic bias

#### Ampligen is medication for ME:

- Only one medication, [Ampligen](#), approved for ME in [other jurisdictions](#)
- Millions Missing Canada is collaborating with a Canadian physician and Hemispherx Biopharma, the makers of Ampligen, to bring it to Canadians with ME.

Quote from Canadian who received Ampligen in another country:

*"I was completely bed bound requiring 24 hour nursing before my treatment with Ampligen.*

*On Ampligen, I was back to full time study and also able to exercise."*

- Ampligen used by more than 1,200 people in 93,000 doses
- Most effective within the first eight years of illness. Every year that goes by shuts door to hope for thousands of ME patients.

We, the undersigned, are **demanding Health Minister Petitpas Taylor:**

- Initiate an **emergency response** as was done with H1N1, SARS, and Zika, to protect and treat Canadians
- **Invest in ME research**, at least \$88 million is missing each year
- **Fast-track access to Ampligen medication**

Minister Petitpas Taylor, only you have the power to stop the harm, fund the research, and start the treatment.

Sincerely,

[Millions Missing Canada](#)

[The National ME/FM Action Network](#)

[The ME/FM Society of BC](#)

**CC:** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Caroline Pitfield, Director of Policy, Health Canada; Dr. Siddika Mithani, President, PHAC; Dr. Teresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, PHAC; Dr. Graham D. Sher, CEO, Canadian Blood Services; Dr. Roderick McInnes, Acting President, CIHR; Marilyn Desrosiers, Manager Business Development, CIHR; Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, MP Beaches-East York; Dr Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services

Go [here](#) for Health Canada ME data, Key Questions for Health Minister Petitpas Taylor, FAQ about ME, and Research about ME.

**Millions Missing Canada** advocates for equitable research funding and treatment access for Canadians living with myalgic encephalomyelitis.

More about ME and Millions Missing Canada can be found at [Facebook: Millions Missing Canada](#), and at [MillionsMissingCanada.ca](#)

\* "chronic fatigue syndrome" - a misnomer, burdened with a negative psychological connotation, is often conflated with the official World Health Organization term 'myalgic encephalomyelitis', describing the muscle pain and inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

TAGS: myalgic encephalomyelitis, chronic fatigue syndrome, me/cfs, Ampligen, Petitpas Taylor

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**STOP** the Harm  
**FUND** the Research  
**START** the Treatment