

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

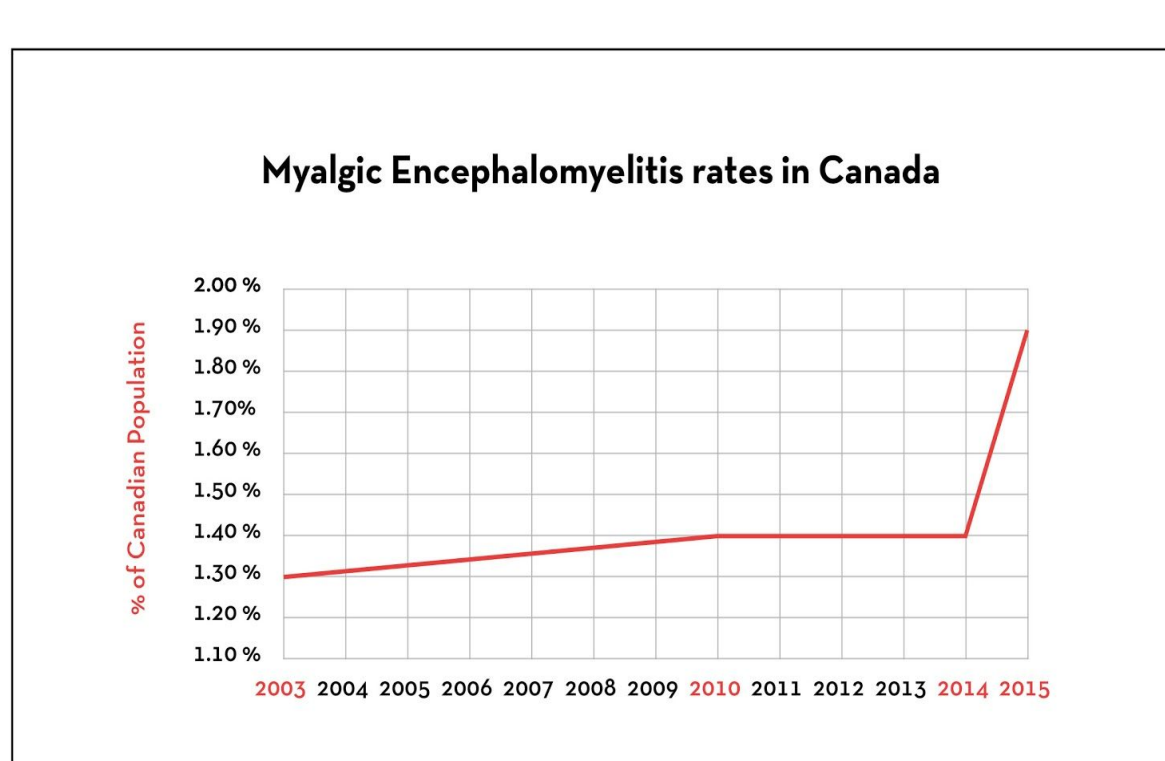
Where is the emergency response?

August 28, 2017

Dear Health Minister Petipas 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 Petipas 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 Petipas 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 Petipas 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, Petipas Taylor

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STOP the Harm
FUND the Research
START the Treatment