

## Family of ALS patient extremely grateful for Equipment Loan Program

My father, George Kong, was always mentally and physically strong throughout his life. From enduring the harsh Ontario winters as a chemical operator in Sarnia's Chemical Valley to immigrating to Canada alone, he always understood the meaning of resilience. Initially, he had been showing early signs with muscle weakness in his shoulder and hands in 2016 but quickly evolved to losing fine motor control in his hands. Tests after tests slowly whittled down the possible litany of diseases and conditions to ALS. In April 2017, my father was officially diagnosed with ALS but his mobility, dexterity and flexibility were already significantly impacted.

For my father, the ALS Society of BC's Equipment Loan Program served as a way to enhance his quality of life by allowing him to continue to receive support from his family, friends and ALS staff throughout his battle with ALS.

During the 2017 wildfire season, my father's condition rapidly deteriorated as his breathing became affected. Each night he struggled to sleep and woke up coughing, gasping for breath as the haze enveloped Metro Vancouver. The ALS Society lent and delivered to us free of charge a bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machine, a wheelchair and an adjustable bed for my father. By the time September approached, he remained bedridden for the majority of the day. His voice had become a whisper, but he still found the strength to receive a steady stream of friends and family each day.

Without the assistance of the ALS Society of BC and their Equipment Loan Program, my father would have suffered immeasurably if we were not able to obtain the necessary assistive medical equipment for his needs. My mother and I are extremely grateful for the exemplary multifaceted assistance from the ALS Society of BC. As a thank you, I am asking donors to support the ALS Society of BC #GivingTuesday campaign for the Equipment Loan Program. This campaign



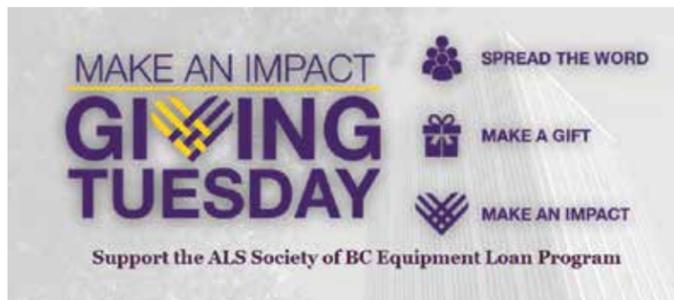
Andrew Kong (right) with his parents.

will help patients access assistive and advanced technology equipment that will improve their quality of life.

The ALS Society of BC also offers funding for ALS support groups for patients, caregivers and family members. Their annual Day of Caring for Caregivers offers primary caregivers of ALS patients a much-needed day of respite to come together and share experiences. Camp Alohi Lani, a summer retreat for youth ages 8 to 17 whose parent or guardian have ALS, allows campers to meet other youth from around B.C. who are affected by ALS and to make connections with their peers.

On behalf of ALS patients and their families, I respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Kong



On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, the ALS Society of BC is participating in the annual #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving back. It is a day where charities, companies and individuals join together to share commitments, rally for favourite causes and think about others. As a participating charity of #GivingTuesday, the ALS Society of BC is requesting your support to help raise its annual budget of \$800,000 for the Equipment Loan Program.

### The Equipment Loan Program

The Equipment Loan Program of the ALS Society of BC is designed to help people cope with daily challenges of decreasing mobility and independence through obtaining essential assistive equipment. This includes mobility equipment, lift equipment, beds and accessories, communication devices and bathroom aids. All equipment loaned is available at no charge to registered ALS patients in British Columbia. The Equipment Loan Program is one of the principal objectives of the ALS Society of BC. It is essential care that can be provided not only to the patients but also to their families and caregivers.

### What is ALS or Lou Gehrig Disease?

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a rapidly progressive disease. It attacks the motor neurons that transmit electrical impulses from the brain to the voluntary muscles in the body. When they fail to receive messages, the muscles lose strength, atrophy and die.

ALS can strike anyone at any time, regardless of age, gender or ethnic origin. It does not affect the senses, and only rarely does it affect the mind. The equipment cost for each patient is an average \$140,000, while nursing and home care costs can be up to 10 times this amount.

The ALS Society of BC is dedicated to providing direct support to ALS patients, along with their families and caregivers, to ensure the best quality of life possible while living with ALS. Through assisting research, we are committed to finding the cause of and cure for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Show the power of hope to people living with ALS in B.C. by supporting the ALS Society of BC Equipment Loan Program. Pledge now through December 2019!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment: Cheque  MC  VISA  AMEX

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  Check here if you want to receive some mailings.

WWW.ALSBC.CA SHOW THE POWER OF HOPE TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH ALS IN BC

To learn more about the ALS Society of BC or to make a donation online, visit [www.alsbc.ca](http://www.alsbc.ca).

Please email [info@alsbc.ca](mailto:info@alsbc.ca) or call 1-800-708-3228 if you wish to make a stock security donation or make a monthly donation.

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