

## **Policy Direction – Parameters for Quality of Life Grants**

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### **Rationale and Relationship to Mission, Principles and Values**

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (MS Society) is committed to providing programs and services to those affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) to help them achieve the highest possible quality of life while living with the daily challenges of MS. This commitment is underscored by the MS Society mission, the strategic plan and the *National Framework for Programs and Services*.

Based upon need and available resources, the MS Society of Canada's, chapters, divisions and national office provide services that may encompass information and support education, wellness individual advocacy, and funding programs such as quality of life grants to assist people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life. A central value in the delivery of services is to provide meaningful benefit to the greatest possible number of people affected by MS.

### **Policy Objective**

The objective of this policy direction is to clearly define the parameters for quality of life grants.

### **Policy Application**

This policy applies to staff and volunteers at all levels and locations of the MS Society including the national office, divisions and chapters.

### **Authorization**

This policy first was approved by the board of directors of the MS Society of Canada on March 3, 2011, under the title "Parameters for Special Assistance Funding".

### **Policy Details**

MS Society divisions and chapters may provide quality of life grants. Such funding provides limited financial assistance to persons with MS to cover services and equipment that are not available through any other government or community

agency or to supplement existing services, e.g., a supplement to homecare services.

## Restrictions

Quality of life grants are subject to specific restrictions which allow the MS Society to provide meaningful benefit to the greatest possible number of people affected by MS:

- Quality of life grants cannot be used to reimburse individuals for drug treatments;
- Quality of life grants cannot be used to reimburse individuals for expenses related to procedures and treatments not provided by or reimbursed by any Canadian province or territory.

## Declaration of financial need

The Canada Revenue Agency requires an organization to meet a number of general requirements to qualify for registration as a charity under the *Income Tax Act*, including the requirement that its purposes be exclusively charitable.

- A. The definition of charitable can be found in common law. To be charitable, an organization purpose **must** fall within one or more of four broad categories (also called “heads”) of charitable purpose (also called “objects”):
  1. relief of poverty;
  2. advancement of education;
  3. advancement of religion; and
  4. certain other purposes beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable;
- B. Deliver a public benefit.

As such, in order to preserve the charitable status of the MS Society of Canada and ensure we are indeed providing assistance to those in need, all recipients of quality of life grants must complete at a minimum a declaration of financial need.

The declaration of financial need is available [here](#).

An applicant may be required to provide further demonstration of financial need subject to the information provided in the declaration of financial need and in accordance with the dollar amount established in the detailed procedures that will accompany this policy.

### **Executive Champion**

The MS Society's national vice-president, programs and services, is the executive champion for this policy direction.

The Executive Team\* is authorized to develop detailed procedures for the application of the Parameters for Quality of Life grants policy direction and any related procedures.

### **Monitoring and Compliance**

The MS Society's national vice-president, programs and services, is responsible for leading the monitoring of compliance to this policy direction in conjunction with other members of the Executive Team.

### **Related Policies, Legislation**

This policy direction, along with other programs and services policy directions including the National Framework for Programs and Services, forms the umbrella of policies under which services are delivered by all levels of the MS Society.

National Framework for Programs and Services  
Canada Revenue Agency Income Tax Act on Charitable Purposes

### **Policy Review**

This policy is to be reviewed every five (5) years following its approval.

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### **Definitions**

**\*Executive Team** – The most senior level of staff leadership within the MS Society comprised of the president and chief executive officer, division presidents, chief financial officer, national vice-presidents of talent, research, programs and services, government relations, information technology. One person may hold more than one position. The president and chief financial officer may alter the composition of the Executive Team as required from time-to-time.