

Information about Huntington disease and #LightItUp4HD



About Huntington disease

Huntington disease (HD) is a genetic brain disorder with physical, mental and emotional symptoms. HD is often described as having ALS, Parkinson's, schizophrenia and Alzheimer's, all at the same time. There is no known cure. Each child of a parent with Huntington disease has a 50% chance of having the gene mutation that leads to the progression of Huntington disease.

Juvenile Huntington disease occurs when Huntington disease appears in someone under the age of 20.

One in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk for developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD as a caregiver, family member, or friend.

About Huntington Society of Canada

At the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC), we are inspired by the spirit of the Huntington disease community. We hope to one day live in a world free from HD. Our goal is to increase the quality of life of people living with HD by:

- Delivering support services
- Raising awareness about HD
- Supporting HD research

About #LightItUp4HD

Every year in May, Huntington disease Awareness Month, buildings and structures across Canada and around the world light up in blue for HD and purple for Juvenile HD.

2022 was a record-breaking year for #LightItUp4HD, with 250 sites lighting up across the world! Eighty-three of those were in Canada, and in total 13 countries participated, including new-to-the-campaign Italy and India. HSC, Huntington disease organizations around the world, and many community members share the photos on social media to raise awareness about the campaign. HSC also promotes #LightItUp4HD via emails, on our website huntingtonsociety.ca, and in publications such as our newsletter and annual report.

Seeing the brightly lit sites in person and sharing photos of these beautiful buildings and monuments lit up in blue and purple for HD and Juvenile HD brings so much joy to our community. This beautiful initiative also brings HD out of the shadows and shines a light on the individuals and families facing HD. We thank you for your part in raising awareness and building hope.