



On Saturday October 15, 2022 Past Grand Matron Lorna Richmond, husband Brother Niall and Past Patron Tim Cameron, wife Sister Simone attended the **Canadian Angelman Syndrome Society's** Gala to make the cheque presentation to CASS.

The reason PGM Lorna chose CASS was about 10 years ago McKayla and her daughter-in-law Christy came into their family. As an Educational Assistant for special needs Sister Lorna had not heard of the syndrome and when she asked her colleagues if they had any knowledge the answer was a resounding NO!

Sister Lorna felt that not only did we need to raise money but also awareness of Angelman's Syndrome.

Angelman Syndrome is a severe neurological disorder characterized by developmental delays, epilepsy, and problems with motor coordination and balance. Individuals with AS do not develop functional speech and the seizure disorder in individuals can be difficult to treat. Feeding disorders in infancy are common, and some persist throughout childhood. Sleeping difficulties are commonly noted in individuals with Angelman Syndrome. AS affects all races and both genders equally and occurs in approximately one in 15,000 births.

People living with AS have a normal life expectancy but require life-long care and intense therapies to help develop functional skills and improve their quality of life. Close medical supervision, often involving multiple medical interventions is common. Individuals with Angelman Syndrome tend to have a happy demeanor, characterized by frequent laughing, smiling and excitability. Although the cause for AS is known, currently there are no treatments available or a cure for this disorder.

In their year Sister Lorna and Brother Tim had great plans for fundraising events. However, as we all know the dreaded COVID restrictions meant not only did they have to curtail the events but a lot of them didn't

happen. The Grand Chapter of Alberta has approximately 1400 wonderful, generous members and it was with hearts that were full to bursting that they presented CASS with a cheque for \$23,000.

The monies donated will go to the Family Fund which was created to provide financial assistance to families supporting individuals with Angelman Syndrome. Family members can apply for funds that are needed to improve the quality of life for an individual with Angelman Syndrome.

At the Gala a video was presented called **"My Brother is Awake"** in which a sister shares her view on having an **"Angel"** in the family. Here is the link to take you to the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/AuqkvwZgkI0>

Past Grand Matron Lorna and Past Grand Patron Tim would like to thank all the Chapters and Members who gave so generously to make this donation possible and to help change the lives of **"Angel Families"**.