

Société Alzheimer Society

S U D B U R Y - M A N I T O U L I N

Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: ACTION: Dementia Care Strategy

Every 5 minutes, a new case of dementia is reported in Canada. I am contacting your municipality to discuss the need for collaboration as Canadians to work together to implement a national, provincial, and municipal dementia strategy to meet the growing needs of all citizens in the next 30 years.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are progressive and degenerative diseases of the brain that cause thinking and memory to become impaired. Currently, over 500,000 Canadians are living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (including 200,000 Ontarians) and within the next generation this number is expected to rise to 1.1 million people. The current health care costs associated with these diseases are over \$15 billion annually and this amount is steadily increasing.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias have a momentous impact on those living with these diseases and also their caregivers, families, health care providers, and communities. Some of the consequences of people living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias include the need for support from informal caregivers, the need for more in-home supports to reduce the use of hospital and long term care beds, the need for more housing models including supportive housing, and financial assistance to ensure that people at risk are receiving the subsidized support that they need.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are not a normal part of the aging process and it affects us all, directly and/or indirectly. Many countries have recognized the urgency and impact of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and have developed strategies accordingly. Canada does not have a strategy for supporting the people, health care system, and communities that are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

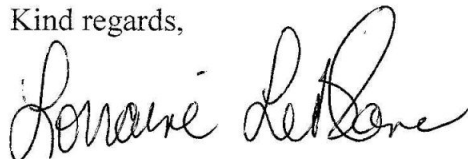
I am asking that you discuss and pass a resolution in your municipality, such as the City of Greater Sudbury, to support the people in your area who are affected by dementia and to also reduce the burden of dementia in your community in the future. By building this awareness and through sending this resolution to the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada requesting urgent action for the development of a dementia strategy at all levels of government, we may put into place a plan of action reducing fiscal expenditures. For more information about the need for a national dementia strategy, please see the following: <http://www.alzheimer.ca/en/Get-involved/Raise-your-voice/Rising-Tide>.



I have included a draft resolution passed by the City of Greater Sudbury and supported by Alzheimer Society of Ontario and Alzheimer Society of Canada in support for Members Bill 356 (national) and Members Bill 54 (provincial). I look forward to following up with you about this matter and remain hopeful that your council can pass this resolution at your next council meeting.

For more information, please communicate with Jackie Quesnel or myself at 705-560-0603 or by email at lleblanc@alzheimersudbury.ca

Kind regards,



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CC: Honourable Mayor M. Matichuk, City of Greater Sudbury
MP Claude Gravel, Nickel Belt, Ontario
MPP Donna Canfield, Etobicoke, Ontario

A Resolution in Support of a National Dementia Strategy

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are progressive, degenerative diseases of the brain that cause thinking and memory to become seriously impaired;

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias most often occur in people over the age of 65 but can strike adults at any age; and

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias affect more than 500,000 Canadians currently and that this figure is projected to reach 1.1 million within a generation; and

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias also takes their toll on hundreds of thousands of families and care partners; and

Whereas an estimated further three million Canadians face the burden and challenges of providing care for those suffering with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

Whereas there is no known cause or cure for this devastating illness; and

Whereas the cost related to the health care system is in the billions and only going to increase, at a time when our health care system is already facing enormous financial challenges; and

Whereas Canada, unlike many countries, does not have a national dementia strategy; and

Whereas there is an urgent need to plan and raise awareness and understanding about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias for the sake of improving the quality of life of the people it touches; and

Whereas MP Claude Gravelle Nickel Belt has introduced Bill C-356, *An Act respecting a National Strategy for Dementia*, as he works for broad, all party and non partisan support for an issue that touches us all. His legislation calls for a national plan that includes the development of strategies in primary health care, in health promotion and prevention of illness, in community development, in building community capacity and care partner engagement, investments in research and other (advisory board, objectives, investment in research, and caregivers and more)

Now therefore, the City of **INSERT YOUR TOWN HERE** calls on all levels of government and the Federation of Municipalities to adopt a national dementia strategy, and urges all citizens of our communities to become more aware and engaged concerning the far-reaching effects of this devastating disease.