



Letter from the Scientific Director of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), Dr. Howard Chertkow

The CCNA Annual Events (October 5-7, 2016) provided a timely opportunity to come together as leaders of the Canadian Dementia scientific community to mobilize a National Dementia Strategy. We recognized that, as experts and stakeholders who have the privilege of a national platform, we also have a responsibility to act, and to do so as a collective.

The CCNA is encouraged by the recent [Senate report](#), “Dementia in Canada: A National Strategy for Dementia-friendly Communities,” and the federal government’s [statement of support](#) for a national strategy.

We are now encouraging you, as experts of the experience of dementia, to join our efforts in mobilizing a national strategy.

Working with the Alzheimer Society of Canada, we know that influencing policy is best done in numbers. This should take the form of signing our names to letters, participating in meetings that emphasize the impact a National strategy would have on scientific research, and how this translates into care for people living with dementia. Expert opinion in the form of written letters - from people with dementia and scientists alike - was highly impactful in the United States, as seen with the historic funding increase in December 2015.

Join us in mobilizing a strategy by (1) signing your name to an [advocacy letter](#) addressed to your home and/or office riding MP, (2) read [‘tips’](#) to set a meeting with a decision maker and share CCNA’s [‘key messaging,’](#) and (3) learn about what’s already happening in Canada (including Bill C-233, the Canadian Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Partnership, and the Senate report).

Let’s work together to mobilize a strategy that improves the quality of services and quality of care for the 564 thousand Canadians living with dementia.

Sincerely,

Howard Chertkow, *Scientific Director*