

How you can support mobilizing a National Dementia Strategy

Key Messaging to Share with Policymakers

FACTS AND FIGURES:

- **24 countries** have a national dementia plan. Canada isn't one of them.
- 65% of those diagnosed with dementia over the age of 65 are **women**
- 16,000 Canadians **under the age of 65** are living with dementia
- 25,000 **new cases** of dementia are diagnosed each year
- 56,000 Canadians with dementia **receive care in hospital**, even though this is not their preferred care environment
- 564,000 Canadians are **currently living with dementia**
- 937,000 Canadians will be living with dementia **in 15 years**
- 1.1million Canadians are **affected directly or indirectly** by the disease
- The **annual cost** to Canadians to care for those living with dementia is \$10.4 billion

*Excerpted from the **Senate report**, *Dementia in Canada: A National Strategy for Dementia-friendly Communities*: "An investment of 1% of direct medical costs would translate to a research budget of about \$100 million, more than twice the current investment from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research". **This level of investment would likely permit researchers to find a disease-modifying treatment by 2025.***

Sharing the Value of a National Strategy

A national dementia strategy would align with and support provincial dementia plans, focus priority areas for joint action and maximize their effectiveness.

It would ensure that all Canadians living with dementia and their caregivers - regardless of who they are and where they live - have the same level of access and quality of care and services.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada has proposed the creation of the Canadian Alzheimer's disease and Dementia Partnership (CADDP) as a framework for a comprehensive national dementia strategy in Canada. Research is one of the three pillars in the CADDP, together with prevention and living well with dementia. (Note, this document is contained in your advocacy toolkit under "supplemental reading" and has been endorsed by the Senate's report, released Nov. 15, 2016).