

## Together We Can Make A Difference

### **Our Mission**

To alleviate the personal and social consequences of Alzheimer Disease and related dementias through family support, education, advocacy and support to research.



# Alzheimer *Society*



## **Alzheimer's disease**

First described in 1906 by Dr. Alois Alzheimer, a German physician, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, irreversible disorder of the brain. An estimated 750,000 Canadians over the age of 65 years have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Forms of dementia include: vascular type, frontal lobe type, Lewy Body Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease to name a few. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia.

Fifteen percent of Canadians over the age of 65 years is living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and although it is more common among our elders, younger persons can also be affected.

The impact of Alzheimer's disease is profound not only to the person with the disease but also to their caregivers. Over 52% of Canadians know someone with Alzheimer's disease and almost 25% have someone with Alzheimer's disease in their family.

There is no known cause or cure for this disease, but researchers around the world are working to unravel its mysteries. Medications are now available to treat the symptoms of the disease. Support and education services are available to help enhance the quality of life for people with the disease and for their caregivers.

**So Let's Rethink Dementia!**

## **First Link Individual and Group Support**

One on one, in a family conference, or in a peer support group, this service assists the individuals with the disease as well as the caregivers to cope with the consequences of the disease.

The many challenges include:

- long distance care provision
- respecting the expressed wishes of the person diagnosed
- balancing independence and safety
- navigating services and treatment options
- finding strategies to manage symptoms
- loss of friends, employment, skills, memory
- addressing legal and financial issues

Our caseworkers understand these issues and they strive to compassionately assist both the person with Alzheimer's disease and caregivers through education and support.

## **Day Program Support**

This personalized service provides programming for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia while simultaneously providing caregivers with a day to themselves. Sadly, a degenerative disease brings with it many losses which may lead to isolation and increased caregiver burden.

Our day program team is empathetic to these issues and focuses on celebrating successes by assisting each individual to achieve and maintain their optimum level of functioning.

# Alzheimer *Society* *Safely Home*



## **Medic Alert Safely Home Wandering Registry**

As a result of the brain being affected, a person with Alzheimer's disease can become lost on their own street, not knowing how they got there or how to get home. When an individual is registered with Medic Alert Safely Home, vital information about him/her is stored confidentially.

To facilitate a search and a safe return home, local police can access the information. The Alzheimer Society assists with awareness about the program, with the completion of registration forms and with the provision of information on how to cope with wandering.

## **First Link Education and Training**

The Society works with partners to develop and provide education programs for the general public, family members, individuals with dementia, volunteers and members of the health care team.

Through First Link, Transitions in Care, a specialized resource library, e-newsletter and customized training initiatives, we are able to assist in recognizing and addressing the cognitive, personal and social challenges brought about by the disease process. Recognizing the person behind the disease is at the core of everything we do.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers are essential to the ongoing success of our organization. By sharing your time and your talents, you enrich all of our services and enable the Society to provide comprehensive support to those we serve.

- Board of Directors
- Clerical Assistance
- Day Program Volunteers
- Fund Development
- Special Projects and Events

# Alzheimer *Society*

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a dark shirt, is looking directly at the camera. She is holding a pen in her right hand. The background is a laboratory with various pieces of equipment and shelves.

## Research

The Society contributes to the funding of research in the cause, treatment, care strategies and cure for Alzheimer's disease.

### Warning Signs:

- Memory loss affecting function
- Difficulty performing familiar tasks
- Word finding difficulties
- Disorientation to time and place
- Decreased judgment
- Difficulty with abstract thinking

If you see these changes in yourself, take the first step – get a diagnosis.

If you are a family member or friend, information can assist you to cope.

The Alzheimer Society exists in your community and is here to help.

## Public Policy

The Society advocates to ensure that policies, legislation and government funded programs are responsive and supportive to the needs of people affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

## **The Alzheimer Society**

The Alzheimer Society is a nationwide, not-for-profit network of provincial and local Societies and volunteers.

The Alzheimer Society of Cornwall and District was established in 1985 as a self-help group.

The Society received Charitable status in January of 1986.

We serve the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell and Akwesasne.

We are proud to serve clients and provide our services in both official languages.

## **Together We Can Make A Difference**

Your contributions are essential to our continued operation. While we are funded in part by the Ministry, our services are available because of contributions from people and corporations like you within the five counties. Please consider joining as a friend or assisting through donations, bequests or volunteer support.

## **Complaints and Appeal Process**

The Alzheimer's Society of Cornwall and District strives to serve you in the best way that our resources allow.

As a result, we have established a formal process to discuss concerns and complaints and to have those concerns thoroughly reviewed, investigated and responded to.

For more information, contact the Society Executive Director at 613 932-4914.

## **Consumer's Bill of Rights**

As a service provider, the Alzheimer Society of Cornwall and District shall ensure that the following rights of persons receiving our community services are fully respected and promoted.

1. A person receiving a community service has the right to be dealt with in a courteous and respectful manner and to be free from mental, physical and financial abuse by the service provider.
2. A person receiving a community service has the right to be dealt with by the service provider in manner that respects the person's dignity and privacy and that promotes the person's autonomy.
3. A person receiving a community service has the right to be dealt with by the service provider in a manner that recognizes the person's individuality and that is sensitive to and responds to the person's needs and preferences, including preferences based on ethnic, linguistic, familial and cultural factors.
4. A person receiving community service has the right to information about the community services provided to him or her and to be told who will be providing the community services.
5. A person applying for a community service has the right to participate in the service provider's assessment of his or her requirements and a person who is determined under this Act to be eligible for a community service has the right to participate in the service provider's requirements and the service provider's evaluation and revision of the person's plan of service.





6. A person has the right to give or refuse consent to the provisions of any community service.
7. A person receiving a community service has the right to raise concerns or recommend changes in connection with the community service provided to him or her and in connection with policies and decisions that affect his or her interests, to the service provider, government officials or any other person, without fear of interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.
8. A person receiving a community service has the right to be informed of the laws, rules and policies affecting the operation of the service provider and to be informed in writing of the procedures for initiating complaints about the service provider.
9. A person receiving a community service has the right to have his or her records kept confidential in accordance with the law.

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**Taking Care of Caregivers**  
**After hours support for**  
**dementia caregivers**  
**Telehealth: 1-866-797-0000**