

# A STRATEGY FOR ALZHEIMER DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS IN MANITOBA

## CALL TO ACTION

The Alzheimer Society of Manitoba asks your party to commit to updating the Alzheimer Strategy and to providing the necessary funds for its complete implementation.

In 2002, the Manitoba Government adopted a "Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia in Manitoba." At the time it was published there were over 15,000 people living with dementia. Today that number has risen to more than 19,500. This growing number has brought new demands to the health care system. Research has revealed innovative new care techniques and best practices. It is time to revisit and revise the nine Strategic Issues

## NINE STRATEGIC ISSUES

- 1. EDUCATION** In order for people with dementia to have an optimum quality of life, they, their families, friends, communities and health care professionals, must be informed and educated.
- 2. GUIDELINES FOR DIAGNOSIS** There is a need for timely, standardized diagnosis with follow-up protocol. General practitioners and family practice physicians must have access to continuing education about best practice, diagnosis and treatment information.
- 3. STANDARDS ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES** There is a need for a consistent person-centred approach that involves common language; coordinated community and facility based service systems, and practices and guidelines that support optimum quality of care.
- 4. FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT** Caregivers need access to flexible and timely information and support; flexible options for choosing care providers and knowledgeable and sensitive health care staff who are empowered to practice a person-centred approach.
- 5. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES** Changes are needed to make both facility and community-based programs more responsive to the needs of people with Alzheimer's disease. Leisure, recreation and respite programming need to be expanded so people requiring these services can have access.
- 6. CASE MANAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION** There is a need for a model of care that improves access to services and utilizes all available expertise.
- 7. EQUITABLE ACCESS** There is a need for equitable access to assessment, physician specialist services diagnostic and support services in all areas of the province.
- 8. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL CONCERNS** A sufficient number and mix of health care providers with appropriate qualifications are needed to meet the changing needs of individuals with dementia and their families in the community, in supportive housing and in personal care homes.
- 9. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION** Bio-medical, psycho-social, and best practice research is needed in Manitoba. Outcome-based evaluations with mechanisms to communicate best practices would lead to stronger programs and services for people with dementia and their caregivers.

For more information please call in Winnipeg 943-6622  
Outside Winnipeg 1-800-378-6699

**Alzheimer Society**

MANITOBA

*Dementia Care & Brain Health*

[www.alzheimer.mb.ca](http://www.alzheimer.mb.ca)