

The Provincial Strategy For Alzheimer Disease And Other Dementias *A Plan of Action!*

BACKGROUND

In January 2002, the Department of Health and Community Services and the Alzheimer Society of Newfoundland and Labrador jointly released *The Provincial Strategy For Alzheimer Disease and Other Dementias*. The release of the Strategy was accompanied by an invitation for comments on the Strategy and input on the development of a *Plan of Action*. Since that time, the Steering Committee has looked at how government and community agencies could move forward to action the Strategy, while being cognizant of the demographic and fiscal realities of the Province. The resultant *Plan of Action* reflects the commitment of all partners to improving the lives of individuals and their families affected by Alzheimer Disease and other dementias.

GOALS

- I. Coordinated System of Care
- II. Access to Current Information on Alzheimer Disease & Other Dementias
- III. Support for Individuals with Alzheimer Disease & Other Dementias & Their Families/Caregivers
- IV. Education & Skill Development

GOAL I: COORDINATED SYSTEM OF CARE

Individuals with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias and their families/caregivers have multiple needs and therefore, many agencies and programs are required to meet these needs. A coordinated system of care, focused on individual needs, will be necessary in order to achieve a seamless continuum of care. This continuum of care must be based on the unique needs of those with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias and must be integrated into the current and future health and community services delivery system.



**Partnering
for Health**
Department of Health
& Community Services



Alzheimer Society
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Strategies to Support Goal I

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| ✿ Explore ways to expand residential options available to seniors with dementia. | ✿ Lead - Department of Health and Community Services
✿ Involves all partners |
| ✿ Develop a Long-Term Care and Supportive Services Strategy to address the needs of all populations. | ✿ Lead - Department of Health and Community Services
✿ Involves all partners |
| ✿ Develop a voluntary client registry on Alzheimer and related disease. | ✿ Alzheimer Society |
| ✿ Increase awareness, coordinate and promote availability of services and resources on Alzheimer and related diseases. | ✿ Lead - Alzheimer Society
✿ Also involves Regional Health Boards & Seniors Resource Centre |
| ✿ Develop a continuum of care to ensure appropriate service provision. | ✿ Lead - Department of Health and Community Services
✿ Involves all partners |
| ✿ Further integrate health, community and other services to ensure availability and access. | ✿ Lead - Department of Health and Community Services
✿ Involves Regional Health Boards |
| ✿ Develop a Mental Health Strategy to address the needs for individuals with mental health issues. | ✿ Lead - Department of Health and Community Services
✿ Consult all partners |

GOAL II: ACCESS TO CURRENT INFORMATION ON ALZHEIMER DISEASE & OTHER DEMENTIAS

To respond appropriately to Alzheimer Disease and other dementias it is important that the most up-to-date information is available to the public. Through the Alzheimer Society's national organization and local initiatives, up-to-date information on Alzheimer Disease and other dementias is regularly maintained through their Resource Centres in the various Regions. However, it is increasingly important that this information be shared with all key segments of the population, such as teachers, bankers, police, public service officials and community leaders. Such awareness generates a more sensitive environment for the individual and families coping with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias and can facilitate supportive intervention and earlier diagnosis.

Strategies to Support Goal II

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| * Facilitate and incorporate research to determine best practices for people with dementia. | * Lead - Alzheimer Society & Department of Health and Community Services |
| | * Involves all partners |
| * Ensure the stakeholders have access to current information on Alzheimer Disease and services available. | * Lead - Alzheimer Society |
| | * Involves all partners |
| * Provide support for staff to attend conferences, seminars, etc. | * Lead - Regional Health Boards |
| | * Involves all partners |

GOAL III: SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ALZHEIMER DISEASE & OTHER DEMENTIAS & THEIR FAMILIES/CAREGIVERS

Additional measures are needed to support individuals with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias and their families in their caregiving roles. Access to support services can alleviate some of the emotional strain of caregiving and can enable families to provide care at home for longer periods of time, which will ultimately reduce costs of long-term care while supporting families and communities.

Strategies to Support Goal III

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| * Establish accessible programs designed to meet the needs of individuals and their families along the continuum of care. | * Lead - Alzheimer Society |
| | * Involves all partners |
| * Support provincial efforts to create and design alternate residential options. | * Lead - Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation |
| | * Involves all partners |
| * Encourage and support the development of programs and services provided by the voluntary sector. | * Lead - Alzheimer Society & Department of Health and Community Services |
| | * Involves all partners |
| * Enhance communication among organizations providing services to individuals with Alzheimer and related diseases. | * Lead - Alzheimer Society |
| | * Involves all partners |

GOAL IV: EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The provision of care for individuals with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias is a specialty area requiring distinct knowledge and expertise. It is important that all formal and informal caregivers receive training on how to care for someone with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias due to the many different behaviors of the disease.

Strategies to Support Goal IV

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| ✿ Ensure appropriate training on Alzheimer and related diseases is included in educational programs for health care providers. | ✿ Lead - Alzheimer Society
✿ Involves all partners |
| ✿ Provide access to information on Alzheimer Disease and services in strategic locations throughout the province. | ✿ Lead - Alzheimer Society
✿ Involves all partners |
| ✿ Explore opportunities to incorporate education on Alzheimer Disease into the school curriculum. | ✿ Alzheimer Society |

A COORDINATED PLAN OF ACTION...

The strategies outlined in this *Plan of Action* will only serve to improve the lives of individuals and their families affected by Alzheimer Disease and other dementias if all individuals who in any way touch the lives of individuals with Alzheimer Disease and other dementias apply them on a daily basis. It is through the combined efforts of both government and community agencies that we can make this a success!

If you would like any further information on the Strategy, please contact Shirley Lucas at the Alzheimer Society of Newfoundland and Labrador at 709-576-0608 (or via e-mail at: sharing@avalon.nf.ca) or Lynn Bryant at the Department of Health and Community Services at 709-729-0011 (or via e-mail at: lbryant@gov.nl.ca).

We hope that you will apply these strategies in your work within your organization and join us in this effort.

This document, and the original Strategy document, are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.gov.nf.ca/health/> under 'Publications'.