# Help for Today. Hope for Tomorrow...®

The Alzheimer Society of PEI operates under 4 pillars to support Islanders throughout their journey: Research, Advocacy, Programs & Services, and Fundraising.

#### Research

Research initiatives include: UPEI Bursary, advisory boards, proposal reviews, clinical trials, and the annual symposium.

## **Advocacy**

Raise your voice to help us make an impact on dementia care. There is no stronger advocate than persons living with dementia (PLWD), care-partners, and family members sharing their lived experience of dementia with the community, general public and government.

## **Programs and Services**

#### Counselling

Counselling is available free-of-charge through telephone support, family interventions and one-to-one sessions.

#### Education - First Link®

Health professionals and community members can refer individuals for education and support from the time of diagnosis and throughout the progression of the disease. First Link includes case management and a comprehensive caregiver education series.

### **Caregiver Support Groups**

Caregivers meet in a safe environment where you can learn, laugh, and support one another through shared experience.

#### Health Professionals – Dementia Care Training

A comprehensive education program for health care professionals to increase best practices in dementia care. Encompassing: U-First® (includes P.I.E.C.E.S.™); PAC®; LGBTQ2+.

#### Prevention – Brain Fitness Fun (BFF)

BFF is an interactive program suitable for caregivers and people with early to middle stage dementia (GEMS® Sapphires, Diamonds and Emeralds). Components include: physical activity, brain health, and socialization, offered in partnership with GoPEI.

### **Dementia Friendly Communities**

Ask us to work with your business, organization, or community to develop strategies that promote social inclusion and create a safe, supportive environment for people living with dementia.

## MedicAlert® Safely Home

Register for an identification bracelet that helps police and emergency responders identify a person who is lost and assist in a safe return home. Search is an Emergency Training provided to Police, RCMP and First Responders.

## **Gift Planning and FUNdraising**

Join our signature events: An Evening to Remember, Walk for Alzheimer's, and our Anything for Alzheimer's Campaigns! Fundraising is our main source of funding for research and services for Island families. Gift Planning allows your charitable gift to have the greatest benefit to you, your family and the Alzheimer Society of PEI.

### **PEI Statistics**

Each year, the number of Islanders living with dementia grows. By 2022, 2,770 islanders will be living the journey of this disease – 13% will be under the age of 65 and 65% will be females.

## Stop the Stigma – Get Informed!

Attend our Annual January Awareness
Conference, host an information session,
visit our website, subscribe to our
e-Newsletter, and follow us on Social Media
@AlzheimerPEL

The Alzheimer Society is the leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Active in communities right across Canada, the Society

- \* Offers information, support and education programs for people with dementia, their families and caregivers
- \* Funds research to find a cure and improve the care of people with dementia
- \* Promotes public education and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to ensure people know where to turn for help
- \* Influences policy and decision-making to address the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers.

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# **Alzheimer** *Society*

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# **Alzheimer** *Society*

Alzheimer's disease

# **Programs & Services**



### Who we are

Active in communities right across Canada, the Alzheimer Society provides information, support and education to people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We are the voice for over half a million Canadians living with dementia and we advocate on their behalf for positive change. We also fund young and established Canadian researchers working to find the causes and a cure.

The Society relies on the generosity of individuals, the community and partnerships to carry out our vital work.

# You can make a difference

By 2031, an estimated 937,000 Canadians will have dementia. Yet, research shows that too many Canadians are unfamiliar with the warning signs and others wait too long before getting a diagnosis. We need to change this. You can help by:

- raising awareness
- fundraising
- becoming a regular donor
- advocating for change
- volunteering
- sharing your experience with dementia

# **Supporting Canadians** with information

Regardless of the type of dementia you have, the Alzheimer Society can help.

Whether you're concerned about dementia, living with the disease or caring for someone with it, the Alzheimer Society has resources to help you at every stage of the disease. These include information about:

- the causes and warning signs
- the progression of the disease and day-today care
- changes in behaviour that might occur and how to respond
- treatment options
- adjusting to long-term care
- end-of-life care

Our web portal, www.alzheimer.ca, offers a wide selection of information, brochures and tip sheets on these and other topics. Printed copies are also available at the Alzheimer Society of PEI.

Our web portal also features:

- links to every Alzheimer Society across Canada
- news about dementia research and brain health
- BrainBooster activities that may help reduce the risk of dementia
- a forum where you can share your experiences with the disease and learn from others
- dedicated resources for health-care providers

# Finding answers through research

The Alzheimer Society funds research to find the causes of dementia, reduce the risk and identify new diagnosis and treatment methods. Our funded research also explores ways to improve the care and quality of life of those living with the disease.

Since 1989, the Society has invested over \$50 million in basic science (biomedical) and quality of life research through our Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP). Expert researchers review each application to ensure that we fund the most promising research and make the best use of every dollar that comes to the program.

The ASRP is a funding body for Alzheimer's research in Canada. It supports researchers starting out in their careers and helps established researchers to continue their important work.

Over the years, ASRP-funded research has shed more light on:

- potential new drugs for Alzheimer's disease
- neuroimaging techniques to distinguish different forms of dementia
- how diet may delay Alzheimer's disease
- assistive devices to help people with Alzheimer's disease remain more independent
- strategies to improve care delivery at home, in the community and in longterm care facilities
- ways to help and support caregivers

# Leading change for Canadians with dementia

The Alzheimer Society is the national voice for over half a million Canadians living with dementia. We raise awareness about the issues and concerns that matter most to them.

We work with politicians, policy makers and other community and health-care organizations to advocate for change in legislation, policies and programs at all levels of government.

Canadians repeatedly tell us they want more integrated dementia care and support. According to a recent Nanos survey, 83% said they believe Canada needs a national dementia plan to curb the social, economic and personal costs of this disease and better prepare us for the future.

We have proposed creating a Canadian Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Partnership (CADDP) to implement a national dementia plan for Canada. The CADDP would bring together dementia experts, governments, researchers, health-care providers, industry, consumer groups as well as people living with dementia and their families to develop a plan that would coordinate research, promote prevention, and improve quality of life and care.

To learn more, visit alzheimer.ca/nationaldementiastrategy

# Dementia and Alzheimer's disease – what's the difference?

Dementia is an umbrella term for a variety of brain disorders. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form. It is a progressive, degenerative and fatal disease that destroys brain cells.