

# *Société Alzheimer Society*

ONTARIO

**Re: urge return to Health Accord negotiations in the interest of all Ontarians.**

The Alzheimer Society of Ontario is concerned and perplexed about the breakdown in negotiations between the provinces and the federal government regarding the health transfer. We urge all parties to return to the table and resume the talks. Canadians cherish our health system and governments need to work together to sustain it. A disproportionate shift in financial burden from one government to another can undermine our system.

2017 is an especially important year for dementia care in Ontario. For 2 years, Ontario has been developing a Dementia Strategy which is now being finalized. Our Society and people with dementia and their care partners anxiously await this plan but equally so, we are anticipating that that the Ontario Budget will allocate the resources needed to implement the plan. We are concerned that the breakdown in the federal-provincial health transfer discussions will seriously undermine Ontario's ability to fully fund a Dementia Strategy.

We are perplexed because both the federal government and Ontario agree that better home care and mental health are priorities and they agree on the need for better dementia planning within their jurisdictions. Today every Canadian is touched by dementia. Every person with a "dementia story" knows we need to do better.

Over a half million Canadians have dementia and 40 per cent live in Ontario. On their behalf and on the behalf of their families and friends who provide most of the support needed, we call upon Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Wynne to resume negotiations immediately. We ask them to focus on the people who need their support, and to respect the mutual obligations they have to them.

