

FocusON dementia



This election, make dementia a priority

Ontario needs a Dementia Plan!

The burden of dementia is increasing at an alarming rate around the globe. Organizations like Alzheimer's Disease International are calling on all governments to develop dementia plans to meet the needs of this growing population.

Ontario is no different. And as Ontario goes to the polls, the Alzheimer Societies across Ontario are asking all candidates where they stand on support for people with dementia and their caregivers.

By 2020, 255,000 Ontarians will have dementia, a 22.5% increase from today. (In some communities, the increase will be as high as 52%.) If we do not act now, Ontario's health system will be deep in crisis.

A comprehensive Dementia Plan for Ontario would address primary health care, health promotion, self-management, risk reduction, building community capacity in caregiver support and education, and research.

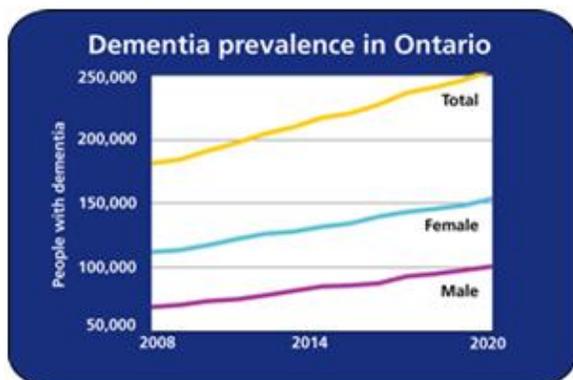
An effective plan would begin by focusing on these needs:

1. Increase public awareness about dementia and promote brain health.
 - A health promotion campaign would reduce stigma and encourage Ontarians to take action to keep their brains healthy and get a diagnosis if symptoms appear.
2. Support caregivers through self-directed respite options and caregiver education
 - The impact of dementia on families is immense. Caregivers need a model of respite care that gives them more control over who provides care and when.
3. Improve care for persons in later stages of dementia living in the community, retirement homes or long-term care.
 - As dementia progresses people need more choice about where they will live and who will care for them. Providing more choice to people about housing options, increasing staff skills and setting quality targets are steps that need to be mandated and measured.

As a candidate for Provincial Parliament, **how will you work to support a commitment to creating a comprehensive Ontario Dementia Plan?**

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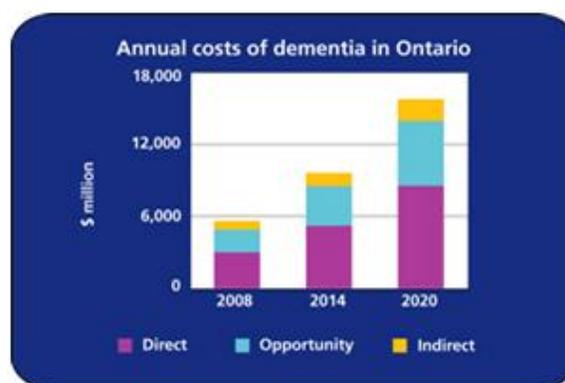
Dementia by the Numbers



Today, 208,000 people are living with dementia in Ontario. By 2020, this number will balloon past 255,000 people.

The annual total economic burden (including direct indirect and opportunity costs) of dementia in Ontario today is \$10.45 Billion.

This is expected to increase by more than \$770 million per year through 2020.*



Today, families and friends spend 110 million unpaid hours caring for people with dementia. By 2020, they'll be offering 144 million hours of care.

*Costs include the direct costs of health care services, the opportunity costs of caregiving's impact on the ability to work, and the indirect costs of lost productivity and lost wages

For more information visit www.alzheimerontario.ca or contact **Delia Sinclair** at dsinclair@alzheimeront.org

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