

Société Alzheimer Society

FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION AND FEEDBACK

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
Chair, Council of the Federation
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The Honourable Darrel Dexter
Premier of Nova Scotia
Vice-Chair, Council of the Federation
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Dear Minister Premier Clark and Premier Dexter:

Today, more than ever, we need a national strategy to address the rapidly escalating challenges of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Canada's programs including research funding, support and income assistance cannot keep pace with the mounting health, economic and social impacts of this devastating disease.

The current economic impact of dementia is \$15 billion each year growing to \$153 billion within a generation. Our detailed report, Rising Tide: [*The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society*](#) describes the details of the issue and provides solutions.

The Alzheimer Society believes that immediate action by the federal, territorial and provincial governments is needed in three key areas: better support for caregivers, improved brain health, and greater integration of health care services. We know with certainty that there is broad public support for a range of solutions to improve Canada's health system, in particular for those with dementia. The Alzheimer Society expects that during the upcoming negotiations of the Health Accord, serious consideration will be given to the impact of dementia and solutions that we propose.

On behalf of the over 500,000 Canadians with dementia and their caregivers, the Alzheimer Society will continue to work with all government representatives to share viable solutions to this complex issue and collaborate with all partners to ensure that the health system is sustainable and responsive to the needs of all Canadians.

Sincerely,



Naguib Gouda
Chief Executive Officer
Alzheimer Society of Canada



Leslie A. Beck
Volunteer President
Alzheimer Society of Canada

Copies to :
Minister of Health (The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C.,M.P.)
Provincial and Territorial Premiers
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Société Alzheimer Society

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