Société Alzheimer Society
CANADA

November 6, 2026

**Alzheimer Society of Canada's response to the Federal Budget 2026**

Yesterday, the federal government released Budget 2026 — including a proposal to make the existing Canada Caregiver Credit refundable. The Alzheimer Society of Canada together with members of the Canadian Federation of Alzheimer Societies welcomes this change which will allow more eligible care partners to benefit from the credit, including those who owe little or no federal income tax. This refundable Canada Caregiver credit addresses an important gap in the existing tax system. It will provide eligible care partners with up to $1,260 annually in new funds when they file their taxes, putting $845 million over four years into the pockets of care partners, and lifting 15,000 people out of poverty. This is by no means insignificant, and we thank the federal government for recognizing this need and placing care partners within their priorities. However, it does not resolve the broader financial pressures they face.

More than 770,000 Canadians are currently living with dementia, and their family members and friends provide more than 580 million hours of unpaid care each year, the approximate equivalent of 290,000 full-time jobs. Behind those hours are people balancing care with work, family responsibilities and their own well-being. Many are forced to reduce their employment hours, turn down career opportunities or leave the workforce altogether, sacrificing their wages and future retirement income while taking on rising costs. Supporting care partners is not only a human imperative, but a social and economic priority.  Canada already has a roadmap for meaningful action through the National Caregiving Strategy for Canada, which recommends comprehensive measure such as funded respite and home care services, improved workplace leave and benefits, and dedicated mental health supports for care partners.

Budget 2026 also proposes a one-year extension of federal funding for home and community care. However, this extension doesn't offer the continuity of a dedicated investment and leaves many programs unable to plan for a long-term future. Finally, Budget 2026 does not contain any dedicated investment to strengthen Canada's National Dementia Strategy, nor to improve health-system readiness for emerging Alzheimer's disease treatments. New disease-modifying therapies for eligible people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease offer new possibilities, but hope must be matched by readiness. Access depends on timely and accurate diagnosis, specialized testing and imaging, trained health professionals, treatment capacity and ongoing monitoring. Without federal investment to

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support coordinated preparation across Canada, advances in treatment could deepen existing inequities.

We urge the federal government to build on Budget 2026's proposed tax relief for care partners by moving forward on the recommendations made in ASC's Pre-Budget Submission: advancing the National Caregiving Strategy for Canada, renewing investment in the National Dementia Strategy and strengthening health-system readiness for emerging Alzheimer's disease treatments. The Alzheimer Society Federation stands ready to work with governments, health-system partners and people with lived experience to turn these priorities into meaningful improvements in care and support.

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