

# Fact Sheet

*PROVINCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR  
DEMENTIA CARE*

*Alzheimer Society*  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**DEAR MLA:**

**Here is information on improving care for people affected by dementia**

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. (ASBC) is promoting the enhancement of community support programs in B.C. to aid people with dementia, their families and caregivers, and health-care providers. We are calling on government to commit to a framework for dementia care with:

- An emphasis on early diagnosis.
- Education and support.
- Access to appropriate and available community-based services.

## **FEATURES AND BENEFITS OF AN ENHANCED DEMENTIA CARE FRAMEWORK**

With **greater public awareness** and community understanding people will recognize the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias earlier, seek earlier diagnosis and learn about the treatment, support, and education they need to be self-reliant.

**Support for people recently diagnosed**, their family and caregivers through programs and services provided by the ASBC. Support includes help arranging legal affairs, forming a support network, access to information, and personalized care plans as well as links with health-care services.

Improved **education for health-care providers** about aging issues and dementia, and increased opportunities for ongoing professional training will enhance competency and improve diagnosis and treatment.

**Supportive environments** that can be created with home modifications and assistive devices to allow the families and caregivers of people with dementia to provide at-home care. Assisted living programs and long-term care facilities will meet the needs of people with the disease throughout the continuum of care.

An **integrated community care system** ensures the effective, timely delivery of care throughout the continuum of treatment from independent living, home support and adult day centres to assisted living and long term care.

The development and implementation of **best practices and standards of care** for people with dementia will improve their quality of life and that of their families and caregivers.

## **KEY MESSAGES FROM THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF B.C.**

- Coverage of the Alzheimer medications through PharmaCare is a necessity.
- The government should enhance community support programs so families affected by dementia get the best possible health care when they need it, in their own communities.
- Caring for people with dementia ought to be an essential component to health-care delivery for our aging population. Although the Society is pleased that the government has placed dementia within the Chronic Disease Management program, the government should develop a strategic approach to manage Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.