

About our positioning statements

The advocacy work of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. provides an essential link between people affected by dementia and our partners in the health care system. Building on a shared passion for change, the Alzheimer Society has developed effective partnerships with health authorities, health care professionals, researchers, community organizations, health care providers, people living with the disease and their families and caregivers.

The Advocacy Committee of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. works to achieve improvement to dementia care in B.C., by:

- monitoring the effectiveness of health care services
- promoting appropriate legislation, policy and programs, and
- providing leadership for the development and implementation of a provincial dementia strategy.

In 2008, the Society's Advocacy Committee traveled the province, conducting public policy workshops through grant funding from The Law Foundation. The committee listened to the concerns expressed by people living with dementia and their families and caregivers.

The Advocacy Committee reviewed the information from these workshops, developing a list of the issues and concerns. The Committee took into account the frequency of particular issues raised, and considered whether some of the issues were being championed by other groups with whom the Advocacy Committee might partner, in our efforts to achieve improvement to dementia care.

The most compelling stories, the most frequently told stories and the stories which indicated where the most urgent action was needed, was in residential care.

The Board of Directors confirmed that the Committee could move forward on two key actions: 1. improve residential care by implementing a philosophy of person-centred care, and 2. Improving end of life care for people with dementia.

The Advocacy Committee engaged Gloria Puurveen, a recent graduate of SFU's Master's degree Gerontology program, to research the issues. When the research papers were completed, the Advocacy Committee re-connected with families affected by dementia. Using a focus group format, to ensure the research accurately reflected the issues and concerns expressed by families, the Committee met with families in Chilliwack, Vancouver and Surrey. Families confirmed that the research resonated with them and truly reflected the experience of people affected by the disease. The Committee developed formal position statements which were then approved by the Board of Directors.