

# Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*Photo Caption: NDP health critic and Port Coquitlam MLA Mike Farnworth visits with constituents at the Alzheimer Society of B.C. provincial office in Vancouver. (A high-resolution file is available for print upon request.)*

## **Local MLA meets with dementia advocates**

**Vancouver, B.C.** – Members of the Legislative Assembly want to hear from their constituents about the issues they are passionate about. NDP health critic and Port Coquitlam MLA Mike Farnworth shared this message during a recent visit at the provincial office of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. to meet with local dementia advocates and discuss the needs of British Columbian families living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

“Local citizens should feel empowered to bring local and personal causes to their local representatives,” said Farnworth. “To become a progressive province, we need to address the priority issues, such as the increased need for dementia care. Our constituents all have a voice and we want to hear it.”

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is dedicated to ensuring that public policy and perceptions reflect the issues and reality of living with this disease, and to securing funding for support and research.

“Everyone working together is the best way to improve care for and eventually find a cure for this fatal disease. We’re hoping to help facilitate dialogue between families impacted by dementia and the decision-makers who make health policy decisions by providing tools and information to feel empowered when speaking with local governments and all political party members,” said Jean Blake, CEO for the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

British Columbians can be a part of this by writing letters and meeting with their local MLAs to bring Alzheimer’s disease to the forefront of the political conversation. The Society currently has a letter-writing campaign anyone can take part in. Visit [www.alzheimerbc.org/We-Can-Help/Advocacy](http://www.alzheimerbc.org/We-Can-Help/Advocacy) to find out how to get involved.

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