

Alzheimer Society

S O U T H W E S T P A R T N E R S

Your *partner* in dementia care in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford

July 4, 2024

Strategic Priorities and Policies Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Morgan, City Councillors and Members of the Strategic Priorities and Policies Committee,

On behalf of the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners (AlzSWP), I am writing to express our concern over the recent news that two Councillors are seeking to have City Council cancel three years' worth of budgeted investment in community infrastructure, non-profit innovation and participatory budgeting for citizens.

We noted the motion to propose cancelling funding for the City of London Capital and Innovation Grants and the Neighbourhood Decision Making program from 2025–2027. Through a past Innovation grant, AlzSWP was able to significantly increase volunteer support both for our organization and several other community support service agencies. We wish to encourage you to continue making this program available to London organizations.

In January 2023, AlzSWP was granted \$47,411 through the Innovation grant stream. These funds supported the expansion of our Volunteer Collective, an initiative to recruit and provide dementia training to volunteers that would be deployed within our organization as well as to other agencies throughout the City that support clients experiencing cognitive change. At a time when volunteerism is lower than ever, the grant supported our team in recruiting and training 129 diverse volunteers who supported clients at AlzSWP and nine other agencies including the Salvation Army, Hutton House and the Oasis project. Additionally, the grant allowed us to focus on recruiting volunteers from diverse communities. This meant that AlzSWP could support families impacted by dementia in their own language, including Spanish, Italian, Punjabi, German, Mandarin, Dutch, Japanese and French. Without the Volunteer Collective, these families would have gone unsupported or struggled to access services in English.

The Capital and Innovation grants and Neighbourhood Decision Making programs reach far beyond one-off supports for single agencies. Building a dementia-friendly (and age friendly) community is a strategic priority for AlzSWP and expanding the number of residents who are better informed and able to support people experiencing cognitive decline contributes significantly to this. We encourage you to re-think this proposal. The non-profit sector is a key partner that the City of London needs to deliver on its promise to improve quality of life and build a strong and vibrant community.

Respectfully,



Carol Walters
CEO, Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners

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