

Alzheimer Society

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX™

November 28, 2013

Mayor Joe Fontana
c/o London City Hall
Suite 214 - 300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Fontana,

In March 2012, the City of Greater Sudbury took a step forward in having the development of a National Dementia Strategy become reality. The city council passed a resolution supporting the creation of a National Dementia Strategy through Bill 356, currently before the federal House of Commons. This private member's bill was introduced by Nickel Belt MP Claude Gravelle.

Across Canada 747,000 people are living with dementia. In London Middlesex there are 7,500 people diagnosed with dementia. This is expected to grow 26% by 2020. There is urgency to the matter, as more and more families struggle to find the appropriate care for people with dementia, whether at home, in the community, or in a long-term care facility.

Many other industrialized countries have taken a lead in developing and implementing a coordinated approach to dementia through various strategies. These include the United Kingdom, Malta, France, the Netherlands, South Korea, Norway and Scotland. Canada is lagging behind, with no strategy for supporting people affected by dementia across the country. With your support, this could change.

Today, 98 municipalities across Ontario, representing 42% of the population, have passed resolutions in support of a Nation Dementia Strategy. We support the Alzheimer Society of Sudbury-Manitoulin in working with the local municipality in passing such an important resolution, and wish to see similar success in our region.

Thank you for considering this resolution. For more information contact us at 519-680-2404. We will be contacting you early in 2014 to confirm your support.

Sincerely,



Betsy Little, CEO



Bruce Wray, Communication Manager



A Resolution in Support of a National Dementia Strategy

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are progressive, degenerative diseases of the brain that cause thinking and memory to become seriously impaired;

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias most often occur in people over the age of 65 but can strike adults at any age; and

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias affect more than 500,000 Canadians currently and that this figure is projected to reach 1.1 million within a generation; and

Whereas Alzheimer's disease and other dementias also takes their toll on hundreds of thousands of families and care partners; and

Whereas an estimated further three million Canadians face the burden and challenges of providing care for those suffering with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

Whereas there is no known cause or cure for this devastating illness; and

Whereas the cost related to the health care system is in the billions and only going to increase, at a time when our health care system is already facing enormous financial challenges; and

Whereas Canada, unlike many countries, does not have a national dementia strategy; and

Whereas there is an urgent need to plan and raise awareness and understanding about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias for the sake of improving the quality of life of the people it touches; and

Whereas MP Claude Gravelle Nickel Belt has introduced Bill C-356, *An Act respecting a National Strategy for Dementia*, as he works for broad, all party and non partisan support for an issue that touches us all. His legislation calls for a national plan that includes the development of strategies in primary health care, in health promotion and prevention of illness, in community development, in building community capacity and care partner engagement, investments in research and other (advisory board, objectives, investment in research, and caregivers and more)

Now therefore, the City of **London, Ontario** calls on all levels of government and the Federation of Municipalities to adopt a national dementia strategy, and urges all citizens of our communities to become more aware and engaged concerning the far-reaching effects of this devastating disease.