

CANADIANS DESERVE A NATIONAL DEMENTIA STRATEGY

WHAT A NATIONAL DEMENTIA STRATEGY MEANS TO JIM MANN

My name is Jim Mann. Some people may look at me and think, “He doesn’t have Alzheimer’s disease.” If only that were true! I’m in my mid 60s and have been living with this disease since 2007. It affects my daily life, especially my short-term memory. That’s why I no longer drive. I don’t use the stove unless my wife is around. And I only use bills when I pay for something because it’s often difficult for me to determine the value of coins. I recently purchased a watch with both a clock face and digital time so I wouldn’t be confused by the numbers. Telling time is a common problem for people living with dementia. And, I know I’m not alone. Let’s face it—the bubble of Baby Boomers has just begun. For many of us, dementia is the second most feared disease. Without a plan to deal with the growing number of Canadians with dementia, we will all experience its impact. Canada needs a national dementia strategy to better support those of us who have the disease already and those who will develop it in the future.



JIM IS NOT ALONE. The latest research from the Alzheimer Society of Canada estimates **564,000** Canadians are living with dementia today.¹ This progressive, irreversible brain disease is expected to affect **937,000** Canadians by 2031.²

According to the Alzheimer Society of Canada, dementia is “one of the biggest public health challenges facing Canadians today. A national dementia strategy would better coordinate and maximize the leading research and innovation already taking place here in Canada, and improve the quality of life and care for all Canadians living with this disease, including their families and caregivers.”



“Each day I see the devastation of dementia in my clinic. I witness first-hand the life-altering toll that Alzheimer’s and various forms of dementia inflict on patients and their families,” said Dr. Ziad Nasreddine, Neurologist and Researcher at the

MoCA Clinic and Institute in Montréal, Québec. “Canadian researchers are making incredible advancements in dementia. But we need a framework and support at both the national and provincial levels to champion local accomplishments—including new research highlighted on www.Alzheimer.tv—sharing information and best-practices to help guide and standardize dementia diagnosis, treatment and care across our country. Patients, caregivers, clinicians and researchers need a national dementia strategy.”

Eli Lilly Canada was established in 1938, the result of research collaboration with scientists at the University of Toronto which eventually produced the world’s first commercially-available insulin. Around the world, Lilly continues to champion and invest in research collaboration. Our work in Alzheimer’s disease is particularly important to us. For nearly 30 years, Lilly has been studying the complex biology of the condition. We’re currently focused on targeting beta-amyloid and tau—two known hallmarks of the disease—and on enhancing diagnostic tools, to allow

researchers and clinicians to better examine the living brain. In our decades of Alzheimer’s disease research, we’ve achieved important milestones and learned vital lessons from our failures.

“Alzheimer’s disease steals memories and lives, robbing people of their identity,”

says Dr. Joel Raskin, Senior Director of Medical Affairs for Lilly’s Global Alzheimer’s Team. “Today, there isn’t a treatment available that can slow or stop the disease’s progression. Early diagnosis and intervention offers our best opportunity to improve the lives of people affected by Alzheimer’s disease. Lilly has been researching Alzheimer’s disease for more than a quarter century, making significant contributions to the global scientific body of knowledge. We’re committed to changing the course of this devastating disease.”

CANADIANS NEED A NATIONAL DEMENTIA STRATEGY—NOW

We still have significant gaps in dementia care. Your location in Canada decides your degree of access to dementia diagnosis, treatment and care. A national strategy will help ensure all Canadians receive equal—compassionate—care. A national strategy will support patients, their families and caregivers. The Government of Canada estimates 6.1 million employed Canadians support informal caregiving to a family member or friend due to a chronic or long-term illness, disability or aging.³ With a labour force of approximately 16.5 million, we can estimate 1/3 of working Canadians are balancing a career and supporting someone with long-term needs such as dementia.⁴

A national strategy will empower all levels of government to collaborate on research, promote prevention and improve care for Canadians diagnosed and living with Alzheimer’s disease.

Together, we can make a difference. A national dementia strategy is needed now—for all Canadians who are impacted by this disease today, and tomorrow. It’s time to make dementia a national priority.

IMPACT OF DEMENTIA IN CANADA TODAY

- Of the current number of Canadians living with dementia, 65% are women aged 65 plus.
- 25,000 new cases of dementia are diagnosed each year.
- 56,000 Canadians who have dementia are being cared for in hospitals—even though this is an inappropriate place for this kind of care.
- \$10.4 billion is the annual cost to Canadians to care for those living with dementia. By 2031, this number will increase to \$16.6 billion.

Courtesy of the Alzheimer Society of Canada

For more information about Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, why we need a national dementia strategy, or to find help and support through a local Alzheimer Society, visit: www.alzheimer.ca.

LILLY FACTS

- Lilly has been conducting Alzheimer’s disease research for nearly **thirty years**.
- Lilly’s targeted research is focused on **beta-amyloid and tau**—two known hallmarks of the disease.
- More than 8,000 employees engaged in research and development, including more than **100 in Canada**.
- In 2015, Lilly’s research expenditures around the world totaled \$4.79 billion USD, including \$213 million CAD into Canadian activity.

www.lilly.ca



¹ 2016 data on file with the Alzheimer Society of Canada

² IBID

³ Canadian Government. National dementia research and prevention plan 2014. Page 13. Support for Caregivers. The Honourable Alice Wong, Minister of State (Seniors). <http://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/alt/pdf/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/dementia-dementia-dementia-dementia-plan-eng.pdf>. Accessed July 18, 2016

⁴ Statistics Canada. Portrait of Canada’s Labour Force. 2011 National Household Survey. Overview of Canada’s Labour Force. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-012-x/99-012-x2011002-eng.cfm>. Accessed July 18, 2016