



ALBERTA  
HEALTH

*Office of the Minister  
MLA, Edmonton-Rutherford*

SEP 04 2014

AR 121644

Dr. Lynn McCleary  
President  
Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association  
1202 - 71 Charles Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4Y 2T3

Dear Dr. McCleary:

Premier Hancock forwarded your letter regarding the development of a national dementia strategy. The Premier has reviewed your comments and asked me to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

I recognize the dedication of the Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association (CGNA) in ensuring individuals with dementia receive quality care and commend your efforts. Please be assured that the Government of Alberta is committed to providing high quality care to those affected by dementia, including patients and their families.

As Chair of the Provincial/Territorial Conference of Health Ministers, Alberta is a leader in driving innovation to meet current and future health challenges, including dementia. Additionally, the Government of Alberta co-leads, with the Government of Saskatchewan, the Health Care Innovation Working Group (HCIWG) on Seniors Care. The HCIWG is a partnership of provincial and territorial governments to develop innovative health care strategies for their respective jurisdictions. One of the working group's priorities is to identify strategies and best practices to enhance early diagnosis of, and support for those with, dementia.

Additionally, the Government of Alberta has provided a grant of \$2.76 million to the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories (ASANT) to develop and implement programs and services directed to support individuals affected by dementia. ASANT works to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and supports patients and families as well as Alzheimer research. More information is available from the ASANT website at [www.alzheimer.ab.ca/Education.aspx](http://www.alzheimer.ab.ca/Education.aspx).

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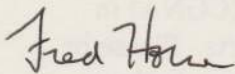
Alberta also has a number of programs and initiatives that focus on enhancing dementia-related research and care practices, including specialized dementia care facilities and units. The Alberta Health Services Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network has identified dementia as a priority through their aging brain care platform. For more information, please visit [www.albertahealthservices.ca/Strategic%20Clinical%20Networks/ahs-scn-srs-roadmap.pdf](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Strategic%20Clinical%20Networks/ahs-scn-srs-roadmap.pdf).

From an international perspective, Alberta joined the Canadian delegation at the G8 Dementia Summit on December 11, 2013, in the United Kingdom. As Co-Chair of the Provincial/Territorial Conference of Health Ministers, Alberta has a leading role in driving innovation to meet current and future health challenges, including dementia. To establish a plan for the future, G8 Health Ministers released the *G8 Dementia Summit Declaration*. The Declaration makes a commitment to increase research, services, funding and awareness of dementia and its impact. For more information about the Declaration, please visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-dementia-summit-agreements](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-dementia-summit-agreements).

I have requested that Ministry staff consider CGNA as we work to develop provincial and national initiatives to improve dementia care and outcomes.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,



Fred Horne  
Minister of Health

cc: Honourable Dave Hancock, QC  
Premier of Alberta  
Minister, Innovation and Advanced Education