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August 7, 2014

Honourable Dave Hancock
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Hancock,

The Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association's 2,680 members work with older adults and their families every day. We know the tremendous impact that dementia has on individuals, families, and our society. Dementia affects almost 500,000 Canadians directly; many more when you consider the number of family members whose lives are affected. Furthermore, with Canada's aging population, the number of people affected by dementia will rise dramatically in the coming years.

We believe that the lack of a national dementia strategy in Canada threatens the health of older Canadians. A national dementia strategy is needed to ensure coordinated efforts to implement dementia prevention programs, policies and programs that support care for persons with dementia and their families, innovations in treatment and care, and research.

We support the Alzheimer Society of Canada's call for a national dementia strategy. We applaud you and your provincial and territorial colleagues for recognizing that dementia is an important health issue.

We urge you and your colleagues to move beyond recognition of a problem to planning for a solution. You and your colleagues should ensure that the federal government creates a national dementia plan.

Regards,



Lynn McCleary RN PhD
President, Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association

cc Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association
Alzheimer Society of Canada
Canadian Nurses Association