

inspiring



Hope

Alzheimer Society

ALBERTA AND
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

OVERVIEW

The Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories is working to change the face of dementia and improve the quality of life for those with the disease. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. The Society offers *Help for Today* through a network of educational and support services for those with dementia and their care partners, and *Hope for Tomorrow* by funding research into effective treatments and finding a cure for this devastating disease.

WHAT WE DO

SUPPORT SERVICES

Support groups provide a safe environment to share ideas, introduce coping skills and offer encouragement to help people living with dementia and their care partners better understand dementia symptoms and plan for the future.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

The Alzheimer Society's education programs, website and other resources help people understand Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, learn strategies to adapt to living with dementia and access community-based resources.

RESEARCH

We are committed to promoting excellence in research that will significantly advance scientific and clinical knowledge and improve the quality of life for those with dementia and their care partners. We fund researchers through the Alberta Alzheimer Research Program for Alberta-based investigators and support the Alzheimer Society Research Program to fund research across Canada.

FIRST LINK®

First Link® is an early intervention service that connects people impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias with services and support as soon as possible after diagnosis. A formal referral from physicians and health professionals allows for proactive contact with individuals and their families.

ASANT CAFÉ

ASANT Café is an online learning platform for people with dementia and their care partners. It is a virtual gathering place where people can find support, discussion and education at any time, no matter where they live. The ASANT Café provides an important connection for people in locations where support groups and resources are not readily available.

ADVOCACY

Public policy and the delivery of health care must reflect the reality of people affected by the disease, their families and care partners. The Society champions efforts to ensure that dementia is a health care priority.

alzheimer.ab.ca

asantcafe.ca

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DEMENTIA BY THE NUMBERS

Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible and fatal brain disease. This degenerative process slowly destroys brain function, ultimately leading to the need for total care. There is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease nor can its progression be reversed. However, present treatment options and lifestyle choices can often significantly slow the progression of the disease.

QUICK FACTS

- ❁ **564,000** Canadians are living with dementia – almost **40,000** are Albertans.
- ❁ Women over the age of **65** represent **65%** of the current number of Canadians with dementia.
- ❁ **16,000** Canadians under the age of **65** are living with dementia.
- ❁ **25,000** new cases of dementia are diagnosed each year.
- ❁ Age is the biggest risk factor for dementia – after age **65**, the risk doubles every **five** years.
- ❁ The annual cost of caring for dementia in Canada (direct and indirect) is **\$10.4 billion**.
- ❁ In Alberta, costs related to dementia are more than **\$1.2 billion**.
- ❁ **Three** out of **four** Canadians know someone with dementia.
- ❁ Dementia can be present in the brain for up to **25** years before symptoms appear.

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