



THIS ELECTION SEASON

Help advocate for improved dementia support in B.C.



Raise your voice to let election candidates know why dementia is an important issue for you, your family and your community

Approximately **85,000** people in B.C. are currently living with dementia, a number expected to grow to almost a **quarter-million** by 2050. B.C. urgently needs a provincial dementia strategy to ensure people affected by dementia – no matter what their cultural background or where they live – can live as well as possible. The strategy should address the harmful effects of stigma, make it easier to get a dementia diagnosis and improve home support and long-term care systems so people can get the **right care, when and where they need it.**

In a recent Leger poll, **89 per cent** of respondents agreed that a government strategy to support people living with dementia is important to them and **51 per cent** indicated that a party with a strategy would be more likely to get their vote. The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is asking all B.C. political parties to commit to a funded dementia strategy, which includes the priorities outlined below. B.C. is a diverse province. To address challenges, it is important that supports needed are culturally relevant and safe.

See next page

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is asking all candidates to:

Ask: Help break down stigma and social isolation.

What this means: Fund a provincial awareness campaign and increase funding for dementia-friendly community initiatives.

Why this matters: Stigma has a profound impact on people living with dementia, as well as families, friends and care partners. It can make people delay the diagnosis or become reluctant to seek help. It also contributes to feelings of shame, lowers self-worth and can result in social isolation.



Ask: Improve the diagnosis experience.

What this means: Establish a clear dementia clinical pathway, attract more geriatricians specializing in the care of older adults and invest \$4.2 million annually to enable the Alzheimer Society of B.C. to meet the growing demand for trusted First Link® dementia support programs and services.

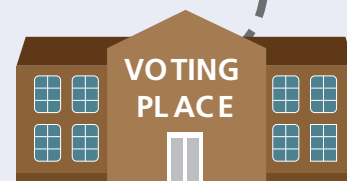
Why this matters: People living with dementia and their care partners tell us getting a diagnosis is difficult, and that once they get one, they do not have clarity about what happens next or if the supports they need will be available. A timely diagnosis gives people an opportunity to plan and access treatment and support that may help slow the progression of the disease.



Ask: Ensure the right support is available at the right time.

What this means: Commit to eliminating fees for publicly funded home care, increasing access to adult day programs, increasing long-term care bed spaces and reviewing the assisted living system to identify gaps.

Why this matters: People living with dementia are falling through the cracks. It is a crisis that will continue to put pressure on family caregivers and our systems of care unless it is addressed. We need to enhance the quality and accessibility of existing services to ensure that people affected by dementia receive the support they need, when and where they need it.



Make your voice heard this election. Visit BCVotesDementia.ca to access resources and learn more about why improved dementia support is essential in B.C.