



NEWS RELEASE

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**British Columbian Change-Maker Honoured
at BrainWave 2013 Gala in Toronto**

Vancouver, B.C. – Alzheimer Advocate and British Columbian Jim Mann and the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) will receive the Change-Maker Award from Neurological Health Charities Canada (NHCC) at its BrainWave Gala in Toronto today. The award honours Mann and the OBI for demonstrating leadership in inclusion, innovation and integration for the benefit of people living with brain conditions.

Diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease in 2007, Mann is an advocate for Canadians living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer Society of Canada and the Alzheimer Society of B.C., where he has served as the public face of *Jim's Push for a Plan*, a campaign for a provincial dementia strategy. Mann co-chaired the Public Policy Committee for the Alzheimer Society of Canada and is a member of the Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network Advisory Board. In his own community, Mann has inspired many, while serving as a support group leader for people living with dementia, public speaker and educator.

"It's truly an honour to receive the Change-Maker Award and I'm grateful for all of the work NHCC does to promote awareness of neurological conditions in Canada. Since learning about my Alzheimer's six years ago, I use every opportunity to tell people there is life beyond diagnosis. I hope this award helps people to better understand and be less fearful of this disease. We need more public conversations and encourage anyone affected by Alzheimer's disease to speak out for themselves and others," says Mann.

The OBI was established by the Government of Ontario with the mandate to enhance the province's position as a world-leading centre for brain research, commercialization and innovation. The OBI has created an integrated approach to research which maintains focus on the individual while using basic science to drive clinical innovation. By working directly with advocacy groups and embedding them in the research process, the OBI ensures that the voices of those with brain disorders inform the direction of research programs. This approach also serves to relay important information back to the advocacy groups, individuals and families impacted by neurological conditions.

"We're very proud to share the news of Jim's Change-Maker Award and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jim on being honoured for his tireless advocacy at

both the provincial and national levels,” says Larry Okotinsky, Interim CEO of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. “He is a source of hope and inspiration for all those who are impacted by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.”

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About the Neurological Health Charities Canada

Established in 2008, Neurological Health Charities Canada is a coalition of 24 health charities that work together to improve the quality of life for all Canadians living with a neurological condition. The NHCC advocates for a comprehensive National Brain Strategy to support people living with chronic brain conditions through appropriately funded research and universally accessible treatments and prevention strategies.

About Dementia

Dementia is a term that describes a general group of brain disorders. Symptoms include the loss of memory, impaired judgment, and changes in behaviour and personality. Dementia is progressive, degenerative and eventually terminal. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia accounting for almost two-thirds of dementias in Canada today.

About the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. provides a provincial network of support and education for families impacted by dementia and people concerned about memory loss. Communities across the province count on the Society for support services, information and education programs, advocacy to improve dementia care in B.C., and to fund research to find the causes and cures. As part of a national federation, the Society is a leading health authority on the disease in Canada.

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