Alzheimer Society of Ontario seeks to build a safer Sudbury for people living with dementia

Sudbury, ON – February 5, 2018 – The Alzheimer Society of Ontario is calling attention to the serious risk of going missing that people living with dementia-related memory problems face – 60 per cent will become lost at some point.

"Half of the people living with dementia who go missing for 24 hours face serious injury or death," said Lisa Salapatek, Chief Program and Public Policy Officer, Alzheimer Society of Ontario. "It is everyone's responsibility to keep these people safe. While having dementia presents challenges, there are many things we can do to manage the risk of getting lost or going missing."

Through Finding Your Way®, the provincial charity is helping people in Sudbury and Northern Ontario who are living with dementia, their families and caregivers recognize the risk of going missing, be prepared for incidents of going missing, and ensure that people with dementia can live safely in the community. The program outlines simple, but vital strategies that can help people stay safe while maintaining their quality of life.

"Staying active socially, enjoying everyday activities and being open to receiving support are important ways that people living with Alzheimer's can maintain independence while living safely in their communities," says Kelly Nootchtai, who helped care for her grandfather after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. "Maintaining as much normalcy in his life was a priority."

"Having a plan to reduce the risk of wandering is critical for people living with dementia and their caregivers," says Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs. "By raising awareness and using strategies through Finding Your Way, we can proactively keep people safe in their home and community."

About Finding Your Way
Finding Your Way® is a program developed by the Alzheimer Society of Ontario and funded by the government of Ontario through the Ministry of Seniors Affairs. Available in 12 languages, it offers valuable resources and information to help people living with dementia live safely in their communities. A full resource guide for people living with dementia, caregivers and first responders can be found here. An interactive guide is available, here.

About the Alzheimer Society of Ontario
Since 1983, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario has been dedicated to improving the quality of life for Ontarians living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advancing the search for the cause and cure.

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