

Opening Remarks by Loren Freid, Executive Director

Good Afternoon, my name is Loren Freid and I am the executive director of the Alzheimer Society of York Region.

I am co-presenting today with my colleague, Andrea Ubell, the Senior Manager of Programs & Client Services of the Alzheimer Society of York Region.

I want to also acknowledge Ms. Shelby Fisch, an Alzheimer Society of York Region board member, who is seated in the public gallery.

It is fortuitous of us to be speaking with you today because yesterday was World Alzheimer's Day.

According to the World Alzheimer Report, released by Alzheimer's Disease International, a federation of 71 Alzheimer associations around the world officially related to the World Health Organization, an estimated 36.6 million people worldwide will be living with dementia in 2010. This is a 10% increase over previous global dementia prevalence reported in 2005. According to the new report, dementia prevalence will nearly double every 20 years, to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050.

Unchecked, dementia will impose enormous burdens on individuals, families, health care infrastructures and local economies.

So - these are challenging times for us in the Alzheimer Society universe, made all the more extraordinary for us here at the local level as we try to understand and expand our role in addressing the growth of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias within our own LHIN at a time in which a new Integrated Health Service Plan will soon be implemented, integration and coordination of local services are being emphasized and a new strategic plan for our community social service sector is now required.

Mr. Chair and members of the Board, Andrea and I would like to thank you for this unique opportunity to present to you the role the Alzheimer Society is playing within our Region and LHIN, specifically with respect to Dementia services and the Client flow continuum.

