

# Société Alzheimer Society

NEW BRUNSWICK /  
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick is thrilled about proposed Council on Seniors**

Issues in the seniors arena are either getting no visibility or limited visibility in public discourse yet the issues in New Brunswick are numerous and critical, and the following are just a few:

1. Primary Care for frail seniors and those with dementia;
2. Length of time required to diagnose and treat patients with dementia;
3. Lack of a Provincial Dementia Strategy;
4. Over 3,000 persons diagnosed with Dementia each year; 15,000 now dealing with it with tens of thousands of family members impacted;
5. Inconsistent standards for training of caregivers;
6. Highest proportion of acute care beds occupied by dementia patients in Canada.

The list goes on and there is no place that we are aware of in our system wherein those issues are subjected to the rigor of factual analysis, policy options determined, and strategies developed.

"Aside from the Alzheimer Society, there are many other groups with wonderful visions, good and dedicated boards, insightful staff....yet there is no forum in which this wealth of knowledge and energy can come together to help government shape a vision and sense of direction that is needed for the province and its aging population" says Ken McGeorge, Interim Executive Director, Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick.

In the absence of such a forum and the results that should be expected, the outlook for healthcare for the aging population is not good. The issues are inter-jurisdictional, complex, and we need not only good research but need to borrow from the successes of other provinces and Scandinavian and European countries.

The Alzheimer Society offers the government of New Brunswick our loyal support in forming this Council, solely in the best interests of the thousands of families that we represent.

**About the Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick:**

The Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick has Resource Centres around the province, and runs numerous monthly Caregiver Support Networks for people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and their families. The Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick provides support and information through a toll free bilingual 1-800 line, and provides comprehensive information kits to help families navigate their way through a diagnosis or suspicion of Alzheimer's disease. The Society provides in-office and telephone support, and organizes various fund development activities to help fund the national Alzheimer Society Research Program.

**Alzheimer Society Media Contact:**

Ken McGeorge, B.S.,D.H.A.,C.H.E.

Interim Executive Director

Alzheimer Society of New Brunswick

(506)459-4280

1-800-664-8411

[kenmcgeorge@alzheimernb.ca](mailto:kenmcgeorge@alzheimernb.ca)