

Board Member Information Package

Strengthening Leadership Across Thunder Bay & the Region



Ray and Hope in Nipigon

Capturing our deep-rooted commitment to the region, including the city of Thunder Bay, elevating our presence, and encouraging more dementia friendly communities.

#RayofHopeNWO

A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Community Leaders and Prospective Board Members,

I am writing to you with great enthusiasm and hope as we look to the future of the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay. Dementia touches the lives of more families each year, and behind every diagnosis is a person, a caregiver, and a community seeking understanding, dignity, and hope. Our organization has long been dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, providing essential services, advocacy, and education in our community. Strong governance is essential to making these goals a reality.

As we look to the future, we are seeking dedicated, passionate and committed individuals to join our volunteer Board and help shape the next chapter of our work. Serving on the Board is an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution at a leadership level, not only within our organization but also in the lives of countless individuals in the Thunder Bay District. Board members bring their professional expertise, lived experience and community perspective to support effective decision-making, financial stewardship and long-term planning. Just as importantly, they serve as ambassadors for our organization—championing awareness, inclusion and compassion within the community.

We invite you to join us in this vital work and to help shape the future of our Society. Whether you bring expertise in governance, healthcare, finance, law, fundraising, community engagement, or another field, your perspective and leadership will be invaluable. We are especially committed to building a Board that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve in the Thunder Bay District, and includes people with lived experience of dementia, caregiving or advocacy.

If you are motivated by service, inspired by impact and ready to contribute your skills to a cause that matters, I invite you to consider joining our Board of Directors. Together, we can help ensure that people affected by dementia are supported, heard and valued.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference. We look forward to the possibility of working alongside you and achieving great things together.

Warmest regards,

Liisa Osala-Simi

Liisa Osala-Simi
Board Chair

Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Community Leaders and Prospective Board Members,

This past year has marked an important period of growth and renewal for the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay. As we continue to move through a time of transition, our focus remains steadfast: ensuring that every individual and family affected by dementia across our region feels supported, understood, and connected.

Guided by our theme, “Elevate Our Presence, Expand Our Reach,” we have been strengthening our commitment to the communities we serve. Our team has been enhancing First Link® care navigation, expanding public education initiatives, and deepening our engagement with regional partners to ensure that support is accessible, culturally safe, and responsive to the diverse needs of Northwestern Ontario.

We are also reimagining how we engage our community through awareness campaigns, program innovation, and expanded outreach into rural and remote areas. These efforts reflect our belief that meaningful change occurs when organizations, partners, and community members collaborate toward a shared vision.

As we look to the year ahead, strong governance will play a vital role in shaping our direction. By expanding our Board of Directors, we aim to bring together leaders who share our commitment to improving dementia care, strengthening regional connections, and advocating for sustainable, long-term support.

Thank you for your continued interest in the work we do. Together, we can build a future where no one faces dementia alone.

Warm regards,

Sharon Pitawanakwat



Executive Director
Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay



Our Organization at a Glance

The Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay has a strong foundation of services and continues to expand its awareness and outreach across the region. This growth creates meaningful opportunities to reach rural and remote communities within our catchment area (shown in orange on the map) and to support individuals and families newly affected by dementia.

Our aim is to reach underserved areas, reduce barriers to early support, and provide culturally safe and accessible services for Indigenous and diverse populations.

Our organization is embarking on an Accreditation Journey through the Canadian Council on Accreditation. We are in a rebuilding phase, and this includes establishing a strong governance structure to support our future.

With strong board engagement, we can build a strong foundation for our future based on six strategic pillars, as seen below:



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| 1 | Expand Programs for People Living with Dementia and Care Partners |
| 2 | Build Resilient Teams |
| 3 | Enhance Funding Sustainability |
| 4 | Strengthen Collaboration with Healthcare System |
| 5 | Enhance Public Awareness |
| 6 | Align Governance and Core Operations Across Alzheimer Society of Ontario |

Our Vision for Governance

We are looking for the following knowledge, skills, abilities and experience:

- Board Governance
- Representatives from Equity Deserving Groups (indigenous, visible minority group, 2SLGBTQI+)
- Person living with Dementia
- Care Partners
- Rural representation (district of Thunder Bay)
- Governance Policy Experience
- Fund Development

Time Commitment and Responsibilities:

- Attend 2-hour monthly board meetings, including the Annual Meeting held in June (the Board does not meet in July and August)
- Become an ambassador of the vision, mission, and values
- Collaborate on the strategic direction and planning process
- Engage in Accreditation Planning from a Governance Perspective
- Engage in good governance practices, including Policy Development
- Engage in Financial Oversight and Compliance
- Engage in identifying and mitigating Risks from a governance perspective and contributing to a risk management plan
- Engage in Fund Development and Sustainability Planning and Strategies, including attending public events to represent the Board
- Other evolving duties as outlined in the Board's annual work plan

Eligibility:

The Board is seeking individuals who are passionate about dementia care in the district of Thunder Bay, have a desire to further our mission, and have the time and energy to engage in good governance practices, including regularly attending meetings and, where requested, attending promotional and fundraising events.

Please note that the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA) cites that the following persons would be disqualified from becoming a director of a corporation:

1. A person who is not an individual.
2. A person who is under 18 years old.
3. A person who has been found under the Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 or under the Mental Health Act to be incapable of managing property.
4. A person who has been found to be incapable by any court in Canada or elsewhere.
5. A person who has the status of bankrupt. 2010, c. 15, s. 23 (1).

Understand Our Impact

The Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay delivers support through two primary service streams: First Link®, which connects individuals and families to personalized guidance, system navigation, and ongoing support from the moment of diagnosis; and Public Education, which provides dementia awareness, community training, and accessible learning opportunities across the region. Together, these streams ensure that people living with dementia and their care partners receive both the practical, individualized support they need and the broader community understanding required to help them feel safe, included, and connected.

Your role will help guide and strengthen the programs and campaigns our community relies on. See what's happening here. Explore resources, education sessions, and local support.

To view our Public Education information, please scan the QR Code or visit alzheimer.ca/thunderbay.



THE RAY OF HOPE CAMPAIGN

A movement built to uplift and support those affected by dementia in our community.



Find our Northern Aliens on Facebook!
#NorthernAliens #RayofHopeNWO

Scan the QR code to learn more.



In Thunder Bay and throughout the district, the Dementia Connect Line connects individuals and families directly to our First Link® team for compassionate answers, guidance, and support.



Support

Support that meets anyone impacted by dementia, at any stage, in every step of their journey.



Guidance

Personalized direction to help navigate dementia-related services, resources, and next steps.



Ease

Accessible support with no referrals or waitlists, just compassionate care when you need it.

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Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay

1184 Roland St. Suite 490, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 5M4

Phone: 807-345-9556

Toll-free: 1-888-887-5140



Join Our Board of Directors | How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming a Board Member or would like more information about the role, please submit your letter of interest and current resume to Sharon Pitawanakwat:

Spitawanakwat@alzheimert Thunder Bay.ca

Sharon can provide details on current board opportunities, expectations, and the application process.

Our Board of Directors plays an important role in providing leadership, governance, and strategic direction to strengthen the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay's work across Northwestern Ontario.

We value individuals who bring curiosity, compassion, diverse perspectives, and a shared commitment to supporting people living with dementia and their care partners.