

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias — Champlain Region Priorities

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This Publication ...

This resource sheet, produced by the Alzheimer Societies in the Champlain Region and the Champlain Dementia Network, is written especially for the Members of Provincial Parliament serving the Champlain Region to keep them informed about dementia priorities and issues.

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Ontario's dementia imperative — It's time to act!

The Need for Increased Staffing in Long Term Care Homes

The Issue:

- The need for more direct care staff in long term care homes.
- The vast majority (at least 73%) of residents in long term care homes has some form of dementia requiring supervision, direction and individualized care for the every day necessities we take for granted such as feeding, dressing, and personal hygiene. In addition, staff support is required for wandering and memory loss.

The Background:

- In the Champlain region, there are about 16,000 people with dementia now. Approximately one-half of these people live in long term care homes.
- Residents with dementia living in long term care homes also require support and management for responsive behaviours that can result from the dementia.
- There are better outcomes for individuals with dementia if their personal support workers have the time to implement best practices to manage responsive behaviours along with the individualized care required.
- Benefits include:
 - ⇒ Reduced incidence of responsive behaviours associated with the progression of dementia
 - ⇒ Reduced incidence of medication intervention
 - ⇒ Increased frequency & quality of staff interactions with residents & families
 - ⇒ Increased resident independence and ability to choose
 - ⇒ Increased personal safety for all residents and staff
 - ⇒ Increased opportunity for care with dignity

The Recommendation:

That the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care increase the level of nursing and personal care staffing from an average of 3.1 paid hours per resident per day to 4 hours *

* A recommendation in Shirlee Sharkey's report titled *People Caring for People: Impacting the Quality of Life and Care of Residents of Long-Term Care Homes* published in May 2008.
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/staff_care_standards/staff_care_standards.pdf

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A resource especially for MPPs published by the Alzheimer Societies serving the Champlain Region (Eastern Counties, Ottawa, Renfrew County, North Lanark, and North Grenville) and the Champlain Dementia Network

www.champlainedmentianetwork.org

FOCUS: The Need for Increased Staffing in Long Term Care Homes

What professionals have told us about increased staffing in long term care homes ...



*Inge Loy-English B.A., M.D.,
FRCPC*

*Dementia and Cognitive
Disorders; Assistant Professor
of Medicine (Neurology),
University of Ottawa*

*Memory Disorder Clinic,
Bruyere Continuing Care,
Elisabeth Bruyere Hospital*

“Throughout all my work, what is clearly noticeable, is that in long term care homes, as a rule, there are not enough staff, to take care of my patients adequately. Dementia of any kind is a devastating disease that, in its more moderate to advanced stages, requires intense supervision, and assistance for the most basic of daily functions, such as eating and toileting.

Adequately funding long term care home staffing, to increase the care to individual patients, is a very direct way to improve not only the quality of life of patients with dementia, but also save lives. Patients with dementia generally do not die from the dementia itself, but from complications of it, such as clots in the legs and lungs, pneumonias, or other infections. Increasing direct care to patients can absolutely help decrease the risk of these complications, and therefore save lives.

Please think about the individuals involved when deciding to fund long term care home staffing. These people are my patients, and each has the right to their dignity, and the best care we can give them.”



*Linda J. Garcia, Ph.D.,
S-LP (C), Reg. CASLPO*

*Professor and chair,
Honours Bachelor in Health
Sciences, Faculty of Health
Sciences, University of Ottawa*

*Scientist, Élisabeth Bruyère
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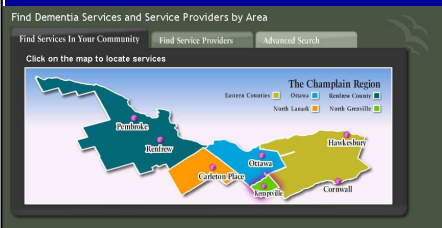
“We need better care for seniors with dementia in long term care. If we are lucky to live long enough (and many of us will), we may need to be placed in a long term care home. People with dementia are people! These are our mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, etc.

These seniors gave a lot to our province and they deserve much better care as they struggle to maintain as best a quality of life as possible with dementia. They need help to interpret their environments and that means extra care. The extra care means less behavioral issues and better quality of life for all, including health care workers and families.

I fully support the Champlain Dementia Network’s recommendation and hope you will understand how important an issue this is.”

Note: In daycare settings where children require the same amount of direction and individualized support as residents in long-term-care homes, the ratio is one staff to five children. What does this say about how we care for our elderly who can no longer live at home?

Locate Dementia Services by Service Provider and/or by Area



**A Web Tool for Families and Professionals to Find
the Right Service, at the Right Place, and at the Right Time**

www.champlainedmentianetwork.org

Champlain Region Priorities

Early Diagnosis and Intervention / Respite Care Options / Increased Staffing in Long Term Care Homes