

Executive Summary: Dementia-Friendly Canada

What You Need to Know

The Dementia-Friendly Canada program was designed to foster inclusivity and accessibility for individuals living with dementia and their care partners across Canada. Led by the Alzheimer Society of Canada and its provincial partners, this initiative aimed to create tools, education, and programming to support the development of dementia-friendly communities. Through targeted consultations with individuals living with dementia, care partners, and professionals in key sectors, the program developed resources tailored to diverse needs. These included online education modules, public service announcement videos, tip sheets, and webinars that promote dementia awareness and provide actionable guidance for fostering dementia-friendly spaces and interactions.

Program Goals

- Equip Canada's workforce with the knowledge and skills to be dementia-friendly.
- Raise education and awareness about dementia among the general public.
- Ensure the sustainability and expansion of dementia-friendly initiatives across Canada.

Achievements and Impact

From 2019 to 2023, the Dementia-Friendly Canada program provided tools and resources to professionals across recreation, library, retail, restaurant, and public transportation sectors, enhancing their confidence in supporting those living with dementia.

Key Outcomes

- Development of the [Building Dementia-Friendly Communities course](#), an interactive training module completed by sector professionals across Canada.
- Creation of a robust series of tip sheets, webinars, and public service announcements with practical strategies for creating dementia-friendly interactions and spaces.

- Established the Dementia-Friendly Communities Awards to recognize organizations fostering dementia-friendly environments.
- Sector professionals reported increased knowledge, confidence, and skills in interacting with individuals living with dementia.

Lessons Learned

- Continuous involvement of people living with dementia and care partners is critical to the success of dementia-friendly initiatives.
- Translation of resources should include certified translators and cultural experts to ensure alignment with local needs and communication styles.

Why It Matters

Dementia-Friendly Canada is a movement toward creating inclusive, supportive communities where people living with dementia and their care partners can thrive. The tools and education provided empower individuals and organizations to reduce stigma, enhance inclusivity, and foster connections, promoting a more compassionate and understanding society.

Visit the website to learn more:

- [Dementia-Friendly Canada](#)
- Browse other community-based dementia initiatives in the [Dementia Interventions Playbook](#).