

Connections

Linking a community of dementia support

Welcome to *Connections*, the Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s newsletter for people affected by or concerned about dementia. In this issue, we've chosen to step away from our standard format to engage our readership to learn more about the needs of people in our community and the kind of information they want to learn from our publications. We're inviting our clients and supporters – including all of you! – to help us improve our newsletter format, content and frequency in the future.

We want to hear from you!



We always want to learn more about the needs of people in our community. Between now and September 15, we invite you to take a short, five-minute survey to share your thoughts about *Connections* and our other publications.

To participate in the survey, visit our webpage at alzbc.org/readership. If you do not have access to a computer, we have enclosed the survey with this newsletter and a pre-paid envelope.

Everyone who completes the survey has the option of entering their name into a prize draw for one of three \$100 gift cards but all responses will remain anonymous.

Research ready: Identifying everyday barriers that may interfere with how people living with dementia interact with their environment

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. has partnered with Simon Fraser University on the Dementia-inclusive Streets and Community Access, Participation, and Engagement (DemSCAPE) project to identify everyday barriers that may interfere with how people living with dementia interact with their environment. The study is focused on understanding how people living with mild to moderate dementia use their streets and exploring how streets and outdoor spaces can be made more accessible and dementia friendly.

Researchers aim to create evidence-based knowledge, helpful tools, and resources to inform policy and practice to develop dementia-friendly communities in both urban and rural environments. The project takes a community-based participatory approach, working directly with people living with dementia to allow their experiences to be captured and to include their input in policy-making. Not only are voices being

captured through a survey tool, but also through recording equipment, as the research team are utilizing GoPro cameras, high quality audio equipment and map tracking technology. Learn more about the research at alzbc.org/DemSCAPE.

Learning from caregivers' experiences of long-term care visitation during COVID-19

In January 2022, the Alzheimer Society of B.C. launched a survey exploring family experiences applying for essential visitor status in B.C.'s long-term care homes. Over 500 people responded. Their insights and experiences informed the Society's three recommendations for how visitation policies can better support ongoing family involvement in residents' lives and care, even during COVID-19 outbreaks in the care home. The report is now available online at alzbc.org/everyone-should-have-someone.



Thank you for participating in the 2022 IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's

On Sunday, May 29, we came together and walked in honour of people affected by dementia. Thank you to the thousands of people who joined across the province to show that nobody should have to walk the dementia journey alone. To date, over \$1 million has been raised to support the Alzheimer Society of B.C.'s programs and services for British Columbians affected by dementia. Special thanks to our provincial sponsor, GoAuto!



Look through our photo gallery of this year's *Walk* by visiting alzbc.org/Flickr

Join our team! We are looking for volunteers to facilitate our caregiver support groups

Are you interested in supporting families affected by dementia? Would you describe yourself as an empathetic person with strong active listening skills and an interest in helping others?

We're seeking passionate, caring, and community-oriented people to facilitate our in-person and virtual support groups. Provide caregivers a chance to learn about and connect with others on the dementia journey. You must be available for a minimum one-year commitment, and cannot be an active caregiver yourself. To learn more or complete an online application, visit alzbc.org/volunteer or call 604-681-6530.

