



THIS ELECTION SEASON

Let candidates know that improved dementia care is important to you and your family.

In Nova Scotia, there are more than **16,000 people living with dementia**, with numbers steadily rising each year. As we head into the provincial election, Nova Scotia voters have the power to make a difference for those affected by dementia. Together, we can engage candidates in discussions about dementia.



The Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia is advocating for 4 key dementia care priorities:



1. Help break down stigma by funding and promoting a targeted dementia awareness campaign for health care professionals with the aim of increasing understanding that dementia is not a normal part of aging.



2. Improve the diagnosis experience by promoting the Best Practice Toolkit for Dementia Diagnosis, Management and Care Planning developed for primary health care providers as part of the NS Dementia Strategy.



3. Encourage Dementia Friendly Community developments by including specific funding for Dementia Friendly Community initiatives in the Age-Friendly Communities Grant program, especially for equity deserving communities.



4. Increase investments across the care continuum for people living with dementia and their care partners by ensuring that the right support is available at the right time including respite for care partners.

By voicing your concerns and advocating for these priorities, we can ensure that the needs of those affected by dementia are prioritized. Let's make dementia a key issue this election season and work towards a future where every Nova Scotian affected by this condition receives the care and support they deserve.

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What can you do this election season?

1. Write an email or letter to candidates in your riding. [Download our letter template](#) to help you get started.

2. Talk to canvassing candidates at your door. When a candidate come to your door, seize the opportunity to ask about their policies on dementia care and share your perspective on the issues.

3. Request a one-on-one meeting with your candidates. Schedule a personal meeting with candidates to discuss dementia care in-depth. Use this time to share your story, ask questions, and highlight priorities that are important to you.

4. Attend an all-candidate debate and ask questions. Participate in local debates to ask candidates about their views on dementia care and how they plan to address dementia care priorities in their constituency.

5. Vote! You can also help others to vote by providing transportation to a voting station.



How to Reach Out to Candidates:

- Email: Find candidate contact details on party websites or your local election office's site.
- Social Media: Tag candidates in your questions or post publicly to get their attention.
- Phone: Call campaign offices to ask about their dementia care priorities.

Sample Questions to Ask:

- If elected, how will you address each of the four dementia care priorities?
- What specific measures would your party take to support people affected by dementia?
- How will your party ensure people with dementia and their care partners have access to much needed support, regardless of where they live or their cultural background?
- Which initiatives in your party's platform will help improve access to dementia care services, including in rural and remote communities?
- How will you ensure dementia care remains a priority for our next government?
- How will you include the voices of people with lived experience in the development and evaluation of programs and policies that affect them?

Let's work together to ensure that dementia care is a priority for our next government!

Make your voice heard this election. Visit alzheimer.ca/ns/election2024 to access resources and learn more about why improved dementia care is essential in Nova Scotia.