

1. **Help break down stigma.** Stigma has a profound impact on people living with dementia. It can cause people to delay seeking help from health care providers. When they do express concerns to a doctor, they are frequently told that the symptoms are a normal part of aging. *Will you commit to developing and promoting a targeted dementia awareness campaign for health care professionals to increase awareness and understanding that dementia is not a normal part of aging?*

We will work with experts like yourselves to develop a dementia awareness campaign for healthcare professionals. This will ensure that Nova Scotians have timely diagnosis and that those working in our healthcare system know which signs to look out for in their patients.

2. **Improve the diagnosis experience.** People living with dementia tell us accessing a diagnosis is difficult. This is due in part to limited access to primary care providers, and the fact that many health care professionals are not comfortable making a diagnosis. *Will you commit to promoting dissemination and uptake of the Best Practice Toolkit for Dementia Diagnosis, Management and Care Planning developed for primary health care providers as part of the NS Dementia Strategy?*

A Nova Scotia Liberal government will promote this valuable resource, specifically within the collaborative care clinic model that we will build and expand across the province. This model will attach more Nova Scotians to primary care close to home, and with the hard work of the experts who developed this toolkit, will support timely diagnosis.

3. **Encourage Dementia Friendly Community developments.** A Dementia Friendly Community is a place where people living with dementia feel included and supported. It ensures people can age in place and remain active, engaged members of their communities. *Will you commit to including specific funding for Dementia Friendly Community initiatives in the Age-Friendly Communities Grant program?*

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party strongly supports any programming that enhances inclusivity and community engagement for seniors in our province. We will include funding for Dementia Friendly Community initiatives within the Age-Friendly Communities Grant program to encourage their development.

4. **Increase investments across the care continuum for people living with dementia and their care partners.** We frequently hear from care partners that they lack respite support. Given the stress of caregiving, care partners often become secondary patients themselves. It is imperative that the government optimize respite resources so care partners get the breaks they need to care for their own physical and emotional health needs. *Will you commit to providing greater access to respite beds in long-term care facilities and evaluate eligibility for respite as a home support service for all dementia care partners (including younger care partners) in the NS Home Care policy?*

The Nova Scotia Liberal Party knows that we need to do more to support care partners, and that providing strong respite resources is one way we can do that. We will work with Alzheimers Society and other experts to examine the best methods for implementing respite support. One of our platform commitments is investing in home care for seniors, and we will evaluate eligibility for dementia care partner respite being part of that.