



A \$30 Million Commitment to Transform Dementia Care in Canada

In Fall 2024, the Slight Family Foundation announced a landmark \$30 million investment to enhance dementia prevention, compassionate care and research across Canada. With dementia projected to affect nearly 1 million Canadians by 2030, this initiative comes at a critical time.

United for impact, the Slight Dementia Initiative partners met this month for the first time to spark collaboration and innovation.

The inaugural meeting provided a space for the partners to share their respective areas of focus, explore opportunities to align efforts, and identify strategies for maximizing collective impact, particularly in reaching underserved and vulnerable communities. With a growing population of older Canadians and over 350 new dementia diagnoses each day, the need for a coordinated, inclusive response has never been more urgent.



Through this initiative, seven remarkable organizations are leading impactful, community-driven action to better support people living with dementia, their caregivers and the systems that serve them. The NIA is proud to support this work through strategic coordination, knowledge sharing and public policy leadership.

Explore our new dedicated webpage: niageing.ca/slaight-foundation-partners

Société Alzheimer Society

Alzheimer Society of Canada: Expanding Reach, Enhancing Care

The Slaughter Family Foundation's donation to the Alzheimer Society of Canada will enable and strengthen existing programs across Canada, launch new initiatives and enhance collaboration with other organizations dedicated to dementia care. This support is crucial for fostering innovation and ensuring comprehensive care for individuals living with dementia, especially those in underserved and vulnerable communities.

The Alzheimer Society is Canada's leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Active in communities right across Canada, the Society offers help for today through programs and services for people living with dementia and hope for tomorrow by funding research to find the cause and the cure.

The Alzheimer Society:

- Offers information, support and education programs for people with dementia, their families and caregivers
- Funds research to find a cure and improve the care of people with dementia
- Promotes public education and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias to ensure people know where to turn for help
- Influences policy and decision-making to address the needs of people with dementia and their caregivers

For more information, visit: alzheimer.ca/find

Baycrest: Defying Dementia, Supporting Caregivers and Reducing Risk

Baycrest's leadership is already making a significant impact through several high-profile projects supported by the Slaight Family Foundation:

The Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness

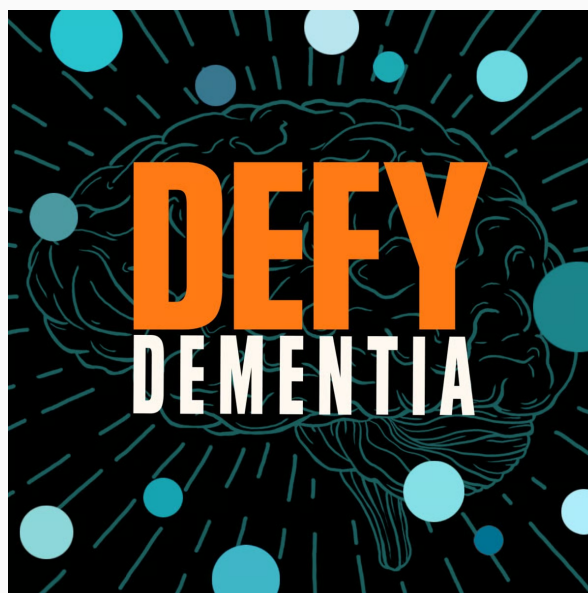
The world's first research-driven community centre is offering personalized dementia risk reduction programs. Early results show significant improvements in brain-health, eating, wellbeing and cognitive function. Learn more at: kimelcentre.baycrest.org

Defy Dementia

Learn about dementia risk reduction and challenge dementia-associated stigma through Defy Dementia's Webby-nominated podcasts, virtual and in-person events and webinars. Defy Dementia released 8 podcast episodes; held 3 in-person and 5 virtual events; and recorded 315,000 Defy Dementia podcast listens, 21,000 Defy Dementia website visits and nearly 20,000 plays of the Canuckle Brain Health Edition Game across 47 countries.

Upcoming Defy Dementia events include:

- Whitehorse (May 13)
- Osaka, Japan (June 26)



[Check out one of our webinars](#) and learn more at: defydementia.org

C-CART for Dementia Caregivers

The Canadian Caregiver Assessment and Resource Tool (C-CART) is an innovative online self assessment and system navigation tool created by the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving at Baycrest. Designed to support family caregivers across Canada—regardless of the condition, illness, or life stage they’re navigating—C-CART helps identify caregiver needs and connects them to tailored, evidence-based resources.

We are now developing a specialized edition of C-CART for dementia caregivers.

Cogniciti Brain Health Assessment and Workshops

Take charge of your brain health today with our free [Brain Health Assessment](#) and receive a personalized brain health score and report. Start tracking your overall health with our [Smart Tracker](#) tool and join our expert-led [brain health workshops](#) to gain insights into brain health and ageing. Learn more at: cogniciti.com

Belmont House: Creating Homes, Not Facilities



The Seniors' Home of Choice

Belmont House is on a transformative journey to become Ontario's **first fully Butterfly-certified long-term care home**, in partnership with UK-based **Meaningful Care Matters**. The **Butterfly Model** is being rolled out across all long-term care areas—creating not just places to live, but homes where people with dementia are celebrated for who they are.

This person-centred model embraces diversity, passions and the unique life stories of each resident. Staff are trained to focus on *doing with* rather than *doing for*, fostering a truly relational culture of care.

A key feature of the Butterfly Model is the **Life Story** initiative. Families collaborate with staff to create visual profiles of their loved ones—highlighting their passions, memories, and unique personality traits. These framed profiles are displayed outside residents' rooms, deepening personal connections and encouraging meaningful engagement.

CAMH: Tech-Enabled Dementia Care in Long-Term Care

CAMH is transforming dementia care in Ontario's long-term care homes through **Tech-ICP**—a Technology-Enabled Integrated Care Pathway. This project addresses behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD), like agitation, by combining medication review with innovative non-pharmacological interventions.

Key Innovations:

- Clinician dashboards and wearable devices for real-time monitoring
- Virtual reality (VR) tools for reminiscence therapy and staff training
- Algorithmic care pathways for personalized treatment plans

The phased rollout will reach approximately 40 LTC homes and includes readiness assessments, comprehensive evaluations, and long-term implementation support.

The project will:

- Standardize team-based care for BPSD
- Enhance clinical decision-making with technology
- Improve resident quality of life and reduce caregiver burden
- Create a sustainable model for dementia care

A Patient-Family Caregiver Advisory Committee will co-lead the initiative, ensuring care remains person-centred. Supported by CAMH, participating homes will receive equipment, training, and staffing resources.

For more information, contact:

- **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar** – Sanjeev.Kumar@camh.ca
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Egale: Identity-Based Dementia Care Rooted in Allyship



In the 2SLGBTQI community, people can spend their entire lives coming out, fighting to be recognized as who they truly are. Often, the nuance of the experience is what shapes them. Now imagine the fear of forgetting the person you've worked so hard to become or being forced to abandon that progress of self-actualization.

Egale Canada, with support from the Saight Family Foundation, is building on its research and resources in collaboration with our partners to bring focus to identity-based care in dementia care and dementia care education.

Check out the Help Us Remain awareness campaign here: egale.ca/dementia and learn how you can act in allyship with this research overview by Dr. Celeste Pang and Dr. Ashley Flanagan: 2slgbtqi-aging.ca



Sunnybrook: Empowering Independence Through Coordinated Dementia Care

The Saight Dementia initiative at Sunnybrook is a community-based project dedicated to reducing barriers and improving access to team-based, person-centred dementia care for

community-dwelling older adults.

Older adults who are at risk of or living with dementia in Toronto Seniors Housing buildings face multiple, complex challenges in accessing the right care at the right time. Through robust and growing partnerships between Sunnybrook programs like the Community Psychiatric Services for the Elderly (CPSE) and the Homebound Seniors program, along with community-based organizations and initiatives like SPRINT Senior Care and the North Toronto Neighbourhood Care Team, the initiative aims to enable tenants to thrive in their environments with the right supports.

These supports are tailored on a continuum to those who need preventative care, all the way to those people living with dementia and their care partners who have higher support needs. The lived experiences of tenants, their friends and families are at the centre of this project work and continue to shape every piece of project design.

A Tenant's Story:

EE, a warm and social woman coping with dementia, struggled to maintain her home after the loss of her long-time partner. Lacking nearby family, her unit became too cluttered to enjoy.

Thanks to this initiative, Sunnybrook and the team were able to provide deep cleaning, decluttering, along with meaningful engagement from the recreation therapy team. Today, EE is thriving—welcoming guests proudly and reconnecting with her sense of purpose.

EE's openness in sharing her story is helping shape new pathways of care for tenants at risk of or living with dementia.



In Case You Missed It: "Dancer Not Dementia" NIA Webinar

Watch or rewatch the second event in our NIA dementia webinar series, featuring a screening of *Dancer Not Dementia: A Short Film* followed by a Q&A.

Panelists:

- Dr. Pia Kontos (KITE Research Institute, UHN)
- Dr. Rachel Bar (Canada's National Ballet School)
- Moderated by Dr. Madison Brydges (NIA)

Learn how dance and the arts can meaningfully enhance dementia care.

WATCH HERE

The logo for Toronto Metropolitan University features the university's name in white, bold, sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background. To the right of this rectangle is a yellow L-shaped graphic element.

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