

Stewart, Ashley PREM:EX

From: Davidson, Tamara PREM:EX
Sent: December-12-13 9:24 AM
To: Stewart, Ashley PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Query from Alzheimer Society of B.C.

From: Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Sent: December-12-13 9:20 AM
To: Cadario, Michele PREM:EX; Chalmers, Jennifer PREM:EX; Davidson, Tamara PREM:EX
Cc: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX
Subject: FW: Query from Alzheimer Society of B.C.

One to add to sched meeting today

From: Barbara Lindsay [<mailto:blindsay@alzheimercbc.org>]
Sent: December-12-13 9:03 AM
To: McPhee, Jordan PREM:EX; Chin, Ben PREM:EX
Subject: Query from Alzheimer Society of B.C.

Hi Jordan - I wonder if you could help me with this? Or let me know if you think there is anyone else I should be speaking to.

I wonder if you think this might be possible – a brief meeting with the Premier?

At the Alzheimer Society of B.C., we are working on promoting a dementia strategy in B.C., and we were incredibly encouraged by the Premier's remarks in the media in the past few days. Sharing her personal story and talking about B.C.'s commitment to supporting people with dementia were both incredibly important to us.

We have an effort called Jim's Push for a Plan, in which Jim Mann, a person with dementia and a Board member of both Alzheimer Canada and the Alzheimer Society of B.C., is leading our cause for a dementia strategy. Jim is going to visit a number of communities in the New Year, to speak with families affected by dementia and engaging them in supporting the Premier's efforts, particularly in the lead-up to the Council of the Federation meeting in August 2014.

I am proposing that the Premier meet with Jim in January, Alzheimer Awareness Month, and he will let her know he is going to meet with families, encouraging them to support her work on the Council of the Federation promoting dementia. Then, it would be a wonderful thing if the Premier might be willing to meet Jim again in June/July, when he will present those messages of encouragement to her.

Jordan, what do you think of this idea?

Barbara Lindsay, LLB.
Director of Advocacy & Public Policy
Alzheimer Society of B.C.
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From: Patrick L. McGeer [mailto:mcgeerpl@mail.ubc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2013 8:00 AM
To: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Subject: Alzheimer Disease Initiative

Dear Premier: Attached is correspondence between Federal Health Minister Aglukkaq and CDAN. It is clear from the correspondence that the Federal Government has left a vacuum in this vital field. It is my hope that you can be the Leader amongst the Premiers in filling this void.
Thank you for your attention----Pat McGeer

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see our website: <http://mcgeerandassociates.ca>

Minister of Health



Ministre de la Santé

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K9

FEB 05 2013

Dr. Patrick L. McGeer
mcgeerpl@mail.ubc.ca

Dear Dr. McGeer:

Mr. Andrew Saxton, Member of Parliament for North Vancouver, has forwarded to me a copy of your correspondence concerning the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Since 2006, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Government has invested over \$146 million in research for Alzheimer's disease to increase our overall understanding of this disease.

The CIHR's Institute of Aging and Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction sent out a communique to their research communities in early January concerning a call for applications for a \$25 million initiative, the Chagnon Family-Brain Canada Multi-Investigator Research Initiative on Interventions for Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. More information is available at <http://www.braincanada.ca/en/adrd>.

I am pleased that members of the Canadian Dementia Action Network (CDAN) are collaborating with the CIHR to respond to the challenges of Alzheimer's. I understand that two CDAN members, Drs. Sultan Darvesh and David Westaway, are on the CIHR's Institute of Aging Institute Advisory Board and that three CDAN members, Drs. Howard Chertkow, Sandra Black and Peter St. George-Hyslop, are receiving CIHR funding through the CIHR International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease Signature Initiative. As you are aware, in July 2012 at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Vancouver, Dr. Yves Joanette made a presentation on the upcoming launch of the Canadian component of the Strategy, the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging. I understand that key members of the CDAN research network attended this meeting, including Drs. Chertkow and Black, and provided valuable input during the question and answer period to Dr. Joanette and Dr. Anthony Phillips, the co-leads for the CIHR International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease.

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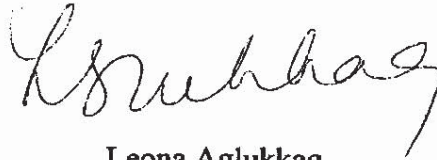
Canada

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I encourage you and your fellow members of the CDAN to apply for research funding through the CIHR's open competitions.

I appreciate having had the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Leona Aglukkaq

c.c. Mr. Andrew Saxton, M.P.



February 6, 2013

Hon Leona Aglukkaq
Minister of Health
Ottawa, Canada K1A0K9

Dear Minister Aglukkaq,

I have received your very disappointing letter of February 3, 2013. It is now 3 years since the Canadian Dementia Action Network (CDAN) sent the Prime Minister and yourself a comprehensive plan to make dramatic reductions in the incidence of Alzheimer in Canada. Your Government has taken no action despite the fact that each day there are 200 new dementia cases with a daily cost exceeding \$50 million. Since you received the CDAN plan, there have been an estimated 219,000 new dementia cases in Canada and the cost over that period has exceeded \$50 billion. This appalling denial of responsibility by your Government is becoming well known to the public.

Scientists who are struggling to improve this tragic state of affairs are grateful for the \$146 million they have been awarded by CIHR since 2006. But this is massively inadequate given the dimensions of the problem. The public has reason to expect your Government to support a well thought out bench to bedside program to combat this disorder. They fear dementia more than any other health problem. They fund the Government through their taxes, and measure results by improvements that reach the bedside. By this obvious standard they have received little benefit from your Government's efforts to date.

You refer CDAN to the Chagnon Family-Brain Canada Multi-Investigator Research initiative. While any new funds in research directed at preventing Alzheimer disease are welcome, this initiative does not create a unified research structure. Surely you must realize that an award of \$1-2 million per year per competitive team has not the slightest possibility of getting any benefit to the bedside. CDAN was created to go beyond the piecemeal methods of the past in order to directly help patients.

The issue is so important that I have taken it up with Senior British Columbia Cabinet Ministers and their bureaucrats. The Provinces are major stake holders in this vital field, and it is my hope that they will take collective action.

In the meantime, CDAN would welcome any realistic changes of policy on the part of the Federal Government.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick L McGeer, OC, OBC, MD, PhD, FRCP, FRSC, President.

cc Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Andrew Saxton, MP
Premier Christy Clark



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From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX
Sent: Thursday, February 7, 2013 3:09 PM
To: 'mcgeerpl@mail.ubc.ca'
Cc: Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX
Subject: Re: Alzheimer Disease Initiative

Thank you for sharing the correspondence you have had with the Federal Health Minister, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, regarding treatment of Alzheimer's disease. This is just a note to let you know that we have forwarded your letters to the Minister of Health, Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, for her review.

Again, thank you for keeping in touch. It was good to hear from you.

Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Jun. 19, 2013

Premier Christy Clark
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Madam Premier:

Congratulations for your successful election campaign. We are very much looking forward to working with you, Minister of Health Terry Lake and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Seniors, Linda Larson.

We are very appreciative of the policy initiatives introduced by your government which support B.C. families living with dementia, and for funding our innovative First Link[®] program in five B.C. communities for the past three years. The \$2 million grant provided to the Society this spring will ensure that we are able to maintain the delivery of First Link in these communities in the short term. The First Link program allows us to work with doctors to bring newly diagnosed individuals and their families to the Alzheimer Society for information, support and education. Our health authority partners, physicians and families alike, indicate that this early intervention gives people the opportunity to develop the resilience to better weather this long-term and heartbreaking disease.

You are likely aware that the Alzheimer Society of B.C. is dedicated to helping B.C. citizens affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias maintain a good quality of life through our education and support programs. We also raise public awareness and raise funds to find the cause and cure for dementia. We contribute to hope for the future, through our collaborative research initiative. All provincial Alzheimer Societies and the Alzheimer Society of Canada together contributed nearly \$4.5 million in 2013 to support the work of 38 researchers across Canada.

We also advocate for changes in public policy so that families get the help they need throughout their long journey with this disease. I believe you are aware that Jim Mann, diagnosed at 58 with Alzheimer's disease, is leading this quest for policy change. *Jim's Push for a Plan* highlights the need for a comprehensive, funded dementia plan in B.C. to address the rising social and economic costs of dementia.

You might be interested to know that dementia is becoming a worldwide healthcare priority. Prime Minister David Cameron announced that the UK will use its Presidency of the G8 to set in place a Dementia Summit in September. He will be seeking an international approach on dementia research in recognition that this disease causes significant pressure on health care systems around the world.



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Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Your personal awareness of the struggle faced by families, and your support for the work of the Society has had a positive impact on those we help. I look forward to meeting with you to thank you in person for your government's willingness to work with the Society to prepare B.C. to meet the challenges this disease wreaks on citizens, our health system and our economy.

Sincerely,

Larry Okotinsky
Interim Chief Executive Officer



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June 25, 2013

Larry Okotinsky
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Alzheimer Society of British Columbia
#300-828 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1E2

Dear Larry:

Thank you very much for your kind words. I am very excited about our election victory and this opportunity to build on our successes going forward.

Providing access to quality healthcare to all British Columbians remains a top priority for my government. Our future is bright and my team of hardworking and dedicated individuals are ready to do the very best we can do to make British Columbians proud.

On your behalf, I have shared your letter with the Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health, and Linda Larson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, so that they, too, are aware of the great work that the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia is currently undertaking.

Again, thank you for writing. It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Christy Clark
Premier

pc: Honourable Terry Lake
Linda Larson, MLA

Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 6, 2013

Dear Premier Clark:

We read with appreciation the news release from the Council of the Federation recognizing the need for all provinces and territories to be prepared to meet the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We are encouraged that the Health Care Innovation Working Group will be examining these challenges and will consider how to raise awareness, identify best practices for early diagnosis and improve interventions and treatments.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. would like to support the Working Group's agenda relating to dementia. Here are some examples of the Society's work in these areas:

(a) Increasing Awareness of early warning signs:

- September is World Alzheimer Month and January is Alzheimer Awareness Month. The Alzheimer Society of B.C. uses these opportunities to increase public knowledge about the disease, understanding of the warning signs and to raise awareness of where to go for help.
- Using traditional media and social media channels throughout the year, the Society encourages families and health care providers to connect with us for resources, education and support.

(b) Best practices for early diagnosis:

- The Society partners with your government to deliver First Link® - an early intervention program whereby physicians connect individuals and families affected by dementia with the Society as soon as possible after diagnosis.
- The multifaceted programs and services offered by the Society help families to understand the dementia diagnosis, to put effective plans in place for the future and to build strategies to sustain the caregiving role.

(c) Improving interventions and treatments:

- The Society is engaged with your government in health care system improvement activities such as the development of the Dementia Service Framework, Cognitive Impairment Guidelines, Seniors Action Plan and Dementia Action Plan. We participate in initiatives such as *Patients as Partners*, the B.C. Patient Safety and Quality Council work on the use of medication in long term care settings and with the health authorities to support *Home is Best*.
- The Society partners with WorkSafeBC to deliver dementia education programs for health care workers around the province.



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Alzheimer Society

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Premier, we would like to support you, Minister Lake and his staff, and the Health Care Innovation Working Group to maintain the focus on dementia and the actions planned in response to the challenges of this disease.

Thank you for making dementia a provincial and national priority, we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely



Larry Okotinsky CEO

cc Harry Diemer Chair of the Board of Directors; Minister Terry Lake, B.C. Minister of Health



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