



September 15, 2023

Erin Crawford, Chief Executive Officer
Alzheimer Society of Manitoba
10-120 Donald St. R3C 4G2
alzmb@alzheimer.mb.ca

Thank you for reaching out to us in this critical election. We appreciate your advocacy and the good work the Alzheimer Society of Manitoba does for families across the province.

Dementia in its many forms creates huge challenges for many Manitoba families and we know that as the illness progresses, people need higher levels of support to handle their daily needs. Many will require specialized housing to keep them safe and healthy. And they will need social supports to maintain the best quality of life. All of this creates stress for families who have to make time and financial sacrifices while also trying to navigate the health-care system to get the best outcomes for their loved ones.

To help families cope with these challenges and to provide dignity and respect to those living with dementia, the Manitoba NDP led by Wab Kinew will work with the federal government, Indigenous governments, as well as municipalities across the province to significantly increase the supply of social and affordable housing in our province. Crucially, we will move forward in partnership with community organizations working on the frontlines, allowing their advice to guide our approach. The housing we develop will include options that meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, single Manitobans, and families.

We will also ensure there are appropriate financial supports for people living with dementia, as well as their caregivers, so families can meet the increased expenses of respite services, modifications to their homes, and cope with loss of income.

When it comes to homecare, we want to restore the system that has suffered from cuts over the past seven years under the PC government. The Manitoba NDP will hire 100 homecare workers to improve homecare and end the cancelled visits and reduced hours that make it harder for seniors to live independently at home. We have committed \$5 million toward mileage increases and hiring incentives for homecare workers to tackle staff vacancy rates.

An NDP government will also implement and fund dementia-friendly education initiatives to help businesses and communities better support people living with dementia so they can live longer in their familiar home neighbourhoods.

Making improvements to our healthcare system will be our top priority. We will work with the Alzheimer Society and healthcare professionals to build better pathways through the system. We will also legislate an Independent Seniors Advocate, as exists in many other provinces, to hold government accountable and provide a voice for seniors.

Thanks again for reaching out and engaging in this critical election. We look forward to working with you to improve the lives of Manitobans living with dementia.

Sincerely,

The Manitoba NDP