

Champlain Public Policy Committee (CPPC)
[Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County (ASORC) &
Champlain Dementia Network (CDN)]

PRIORITY: RESPITE CARE SERVICES

The Issue	<p>The need to increase and expand provincially funded respite care services* in Ontario for the benefit of primary caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). The failure to support unpaid caregiving has serious implications for the health of the population, business productivity and the affordability and capacity of our health care system.</p> <p>* These respite services include home care services, short stay in residential care homes, short stay in long term care homes, and day programs.</p>
The Background:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia is the leading cause of disability in those over 60 years. • More than 160,000 Ontarians live with dementia in 2009. By 2031, this will double to 320,000. • In the Champlain Region, there are about 16,000 people with dementia now. • Dementia care now is estimated to cost \$7 billion annually in Ontario - slowing the onset and progression of dementia will produce substantial financial savings to society. • Projections are that over the next 25 years, dementia will prove to have the <u>highest</u> economic, social and health cost burden of all diseases in Canada (NACA, 2004). • For each person with ADRD, at least one other person, usually a family member, is indirectly affected as a primary caregiver; 75% of the caregivers are women. • Most individuals with dementia living at home are cared for by family members. • Caregivers of those with dementia are twice as likely to have depression. • Primary caregivers need relief; that relief is best delivered as respite care. • On average, after the onset of ADRD, the person with the disease lives about 8-12 years, and more than one-half of that time is in the person's home, followed by the rest of the time in a long term care home. • Respite options can result in fewer crises, a delay in admission to long term care, increased quality of life, and fewer emergency room visits.
The Analysis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincially funded in-home respite care is greatly limited in the Champlain Region. No subsidized in-home respite care in Ottawa and limited in Renfrew County and Eastern Counties. • Many caregivers are unable to utilize respite due to difficulty with access, responsiveness and appropriateness. • Wait times for dementia specific day programs are long.
The Recommendation:	<p>Continue to support flexible programming such as the "Relief and Respite Program" available in Eastern Counties to ensure respite services are made available to all caregivers of those with dementia throughout the continuum of care (e.g. housecleaning, snow removal, attendant care, etc.)</p>