

Alzheimer Society

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Bill 52 for Alzheimer Advisory Council goes to Justice Committee Alzheimer Society urges speedy passage to stem the social and economic tide of dementia

May 20, 2010, Toronto, ON – Ontario MPPs sent a private member's Bill to establish an Alzheimer Advisory Council to the Justice Committee today. The Alzheimer Society of Ontario, although pleased that Bill 52 is still on the table, will continue to press for final passage. The Alzheimer Advisory Council would report annually to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on issues related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia and recommend solutions in areas of research, early diagnosis, prevention and community care.

Bill 52 has the rare backing of all three parties. It was introduced by Donna Cansfield, Liberal MPP, Etobicoke Centre, and co-sponsored by Christine Elliott, Progressive Conservative MPP, Whitby-Ajax, and Cheri DiNovo, New Democrat MPP, Parkdale-High Park.

"Alzheimer's is a non-partisan issue," says Gale Carey, CEO, Alzheimer Society of Ontario. "It threatens to have far-reaching human, social and economic consequences. If nothing is done, the Province could spend well over \$770 M on total health care costs on dementia alone each year, from now till 2020. The Alzheimer Society will continue to work with government through the legislative process to ensure Bill 52 is passed."

Bill 52 comes on the heels of the Society's report, **10 by 20: Ontario action plan for dementia**. Released in March, the report calls for a province-wide dementia strategy based on a 10-point plan that, if implemented in the next 20 years, could significantly alter the course of Alzheimer's disease through better diagnosis and healthy living, increased research investment and integrated community care while improving life for those living with the disease now and for future generations.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It is a chronic degenerative disease that robs people of their memory and eventually, their ability to live independently. Alzheimer's is not a normal part of aging and remains incurable. In ten years, the number of Ontarians affected will increase by 40% and will keep growing. Alzheimer's doesn't just affect older people but also strikes people in their 40s and 50s and takes a huge toll on families.

About the Alzheimer Society of Ontario

With 38 Chapters across Ontario, the Alzheimer Society of Ontario is the province's leading care and research charity dedicated to people living with dementia, their caregivers and families. It provides **Help for Today** through services and education and advocacy and **Hope for Tomorrow...** by fundraising for a cure.

Visit www.alzheimerontario.org for more information about Bill 52 and the Alzheimer Advisory Council or **10 by 20: Ontario action plan for dementia**.

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