



Mission: To facilitate healthy aging by providing leadership and encouraging collaboration in creating age-friendly places (communities) that optimize the ability of all older Manitobans to do the things they feel are important.

## AN UPDATE FROM OUR MINISTER OF SENIORS AND LONG-TERM CARE

Since becoming the province's inaugural Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care six months ago, I have received incredibly valuable insights from seniors, their loved ones and their caregivers on what's important to them. This feedback is critical to ensure we offer high quality, accessible and culturally appropriate programs and services that meet the current and future needs of seniors.

I was grateful for the recent opportunity to announce our government is investing more than \$16 million in additional funding to expand staffing and training in personal care homes as part of our commitment to implement all of the recommendations set out in the Stevenson Review.

The Stevenson Review — the independent external report we commissioned to review the serious COVID-19 outbreak at the Maples Long Term Care Home between Oct. 20, 2020 and Jan. 12, 2021 — identified specific recommendations for action in four areas: resident safety, staffing complements, pandemic preparedness and communication with families and staff. This \$16-million investment effectively responds to the recommendations regarding staffing complements within the personal care home sector.

We are adding 72 new positions for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses and hiring 350 more health-care aides to increase the amount of daily direct care provided to residents. We are investing in tuition supports and recruitment initiatives that will strengthen the workforce and establishing provincial and regional medical leads to provide leadership and guidance to personal care homes.

This new funding is in addition to the \$15-million investment announced in April 2022 to improve infection prevention and control measures in the long-term care sector, add housekeeping and allied health staff, and improve information and communications related to patient care and operations.

I am confident these initiatives will significantly improve the lives of personal care home residents by ensuring they receive safe, person-centred care.

There is always more work to be done. We need your input to know which initiatives should be prioritized so that our seniors strategy addresses the diverse needs of Manitobans throughout the province.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and perspectives. Please take the EngageMB survey to express your experiences about accessing programs and services for seniors, whether it was for yourself, someone you care about or a client.

Your input will help ensure seniors will receive the quality care they expect and deserve.

To share your voice and help shape the seniors strategy, visit: <https://engagemb.ca/building-a-plan-for-older-manitobans>.

To read the Final Report of the Provincial Implementation Plan for the Stevenson Review, visit: [https://gov.mb.ca/seniors/maples\\_review.html](https://gov.mb.ca/seniors/maples_review.html).

**Hon. Scott Johnston**  
**Minister of Seniors and Long-term Care**





## Participating in the Community: It's Everyone's Right

"The grocery store is a challenge because they make us weave through the jungle of groceries."

This comment, spoken by a person with dementia, is the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the difficulties encountered as they try to navigate in public places.

It is realities like this that prompted the development of an initiative called Dementia-Friendly Canada, a partnership between Alzheimer Societies across the country. The project's purpose is to foster the creation of communities where people with dementia, their families and care partners feel included and supported.

Through the initiative's online course, Building Dementia-Friendly Communities, those working in public-facing sectors- like seniors centres for example- can learn about the challenges faced by people affected by dementia, along with actions they can take to make public places inclusive.

"The course gets participants thinking about things like accessibility of both the physical and social environments, as well as how to communicate with someone with dementia," says Jennifer Vicente-Licardo, Alzheimer Society of Manitoba's Education Manager.

For example, there are a number of things retail, business or recreation centres can do to reduce confusion that may be experienced by a person with dementia. Signage can be simplified; products or displays made less cluttered; and steps can be taken to decrease noise to attain a calmer ambiance.

Course participants develop an understanding of the need to slow down during interactions with someone with dementia. For instance, the ability of bus drivers to patiently provide directions can make the difference between a person staying at home or having the confidence to go on outings.

Jennifer explains that the 75-minute online course – which is free and self-paced – is designed for the recreation, library, retail, restaurant and public transportation sectors. While these areas were identified as particularly important by "lived experience" focus groups during course development, the concepts are applicable to all sectors of society.

The training makes it possible for local individuals, businesses and organizations to make a real and important difference for the people affected by dementia with whom they interact on a daily basis.

"It's all about reducing barriers that prevent participation in society," says Jennifer. "The whole idea is getting people on the same page by using language and strategies that will support people with dementia as they are out and about in their communities."

To sign up for *Building Dementia-Friendly Communities*, [click here](#).

For more information about this course, contact Jennifer Vicente-Licardo at [alzeducation@alzheimer.mb.ca](mailto:alzeducation@alzheimer.mb.ca)

You can also reach out to Jennifer to learn about dementia friendly community sessions offered to organizations on an individual basis, both in-person and online, by the [Alzheimer Society of Manitoba](#).

*"Awareness, respect, communication from staff members and understanding of physical space are all vital. Anyone can make a difference with knowledge."*



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