

PRESS RELEASE

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**1906–2006
100th anniversary
CELEBRATION OR LAMENTATION?**

Montreal, September 21, 2006: World Alzheimer's Day

Everywhere we hear that Québec society is aging. And in fact, people 65 and over comprise 13% of Québec's population.

In Québec, more than 102,000 people, two-thirds of them women, have to deal with Alzheimer Disease or a related disorder: in other words, roughly one person out of thirteen aged 65 or older. And despite the increase in knowledge and the discovery of specific drugs, the numbers of people with the illness will grow by 57 percent over the next 15 years.

Whatever grounds for hope advances in research may bring, Alzheimer Disease for the time being is still incurable, and the fate reserved for victims of the illness in terms of care and support remains extremely disquieting.

The Federation of Quebec Alzheimer Societies is taking advantage of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the disease and of its own 20 years of existence to draw attention to the scope of the complex of problems involved and to remind everyone that these constitute one of the major social issues confronting our society.

People with the disease, their families, the staff and volunteers who work in the 21 Alzheimer societies and at their Federation are convinced that, if it not yet possible to cure Alzheimer Disease, it is nonetheless possible to do a lot more and a lot better for all those who must live with it. They are proposing a model of care and support that has proven itself, and calling for a true action plan to be put into place that is inspired by the philosophy they have adopted.

September 21 is a day that confers official status on a time for awareness, for mobilization and for information, and that underscores our solidarity towards people with the illness and their families, whatever their place in the world. During this globally observed day, numerous activities will take place throughout the province of Québec with the aim of informing the population on the subject of Alzheimer Disease and related disorders and of promoting the humanistic approach the Federation has made its own. For the list of activities, please visit our website.

Source:

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