

The Toronto Dementia Network

Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Context

The Toronto Dementia Network was created in 2002 at the invitation of the Ontario Government as part of its *Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias*.

2. Purpose/Goal

The Toronto Dementia Network places at the centre of its focus the best interests of persons with dementia, their families and caregivers, and works to improve the system of dementia care in Toronto.

3. Partnership

The Toronto Dementia Network is an informal partnership that includes all organizations, institutions, agencies and associations in Toronto that provide or have an interest in dementia care. Partners may participate in Toronto Dementia Network activities, and lend their voice to the leadership of the Network through the Steering Committee.

4. Steering Committee

The Toronto Dementia Network is co-chaired by a representative appointed by the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto, and by a representative appointed by the Alzheimer Society of Toronto.

The Toronto Dementia Network is directed by a Steering Committee composed of 1) the two Network co-chairs, 2) representatives of major stakeholder groups who act on behalf of the groups they represent and communicate regularly with them, and 3) by individual members invited to serve on the Steering Committee because of their knowledge or expertise.

The Steering Committee tries to include representatives from among the following stakeholder groups:

Alzheimer Society of Toronto
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
OCSA
Physicians
Public Education Coordinators
Specialized Geriatric Services

Community Care Access Centres
OANHSS
OLTCA
Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants
Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto
Others

Membership on the Steering Committee is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it includes broad representation across the continuum of care and across major stakeholder groups.

The Steering Committee is composed of between 12 and 18 members who are either appointed by the groups that they represent, or invited by the Steering Committee. Appointed members hold office at the pleasure of the stakeholder group that they represent. Invited members serve three-year terms, which can be renewed by invitation of the Steering Committee. Members are expected to attend meetings of the Steering Committee; if they cannot do so, members may appoint a proxy representative.

5. Geographic Scope

The Toronto Dementia Network operates primarily in Toronto, provides a local perspective into dementia planning and policy development across the province, and shares information and ideas with other dementia networks in Ontario and elsewhere.

6. Objectives of the Toronto Dementia Network

The work of the Toronto Dementia Network is organized around four objectives:

▪ *Communication*

On multiple levels, the Network strives to improve communication among all dementia stakeholders. Better communication strengthens linkages between the many dementia services in Toronto. For persons with dementia and their caregivers, better communication among service providers should lead to better coordination of the service delivery network.

▪ *Information*

The Network strives to collect, organize and disseminate information about dementias and dementia services in Toronto. Information resources are intended to describe the continuum of needs of persons with dementia and their caregivers, and provide a roadmap to identify and present in a cogent way the wide range of dementia services available in the region. Information helps to heighten public awareness of dementia and dementia services, increases the ability of individuals with dementia, their families and their caregivers to plan for dementia care, and identifies strengths and weaknesses in the service delivery network.

▪ *Education*

The Network strives to enhance the education and training of persons with dementia, their families and their informal and professional caregivers. Increased access to information about education and training programs related to dementia should lead to an increase in the number of persons that are educated and trained, leading in turn to improvements in the quality of care for persons with dementia. The Network strives to improve the range and geographic distribution of educational programs in the Toronto region.

▪ *Advocacy*

The Network undertakes strategic advocacy activities to influence policy and program development, thereby ensuring the continued availability of adequate, high quality services for people with dementia, their families and their caregivers.

7. Responsibilities and Outcomes

The Steering Committee:

- Consults with Toronto Dementia Network partners to determine how the Network might best improve their ability to provide quality services to persons with dementia, their families and their caregivers.
- Identifies strategies and activities that meet the goals of the Toronto Dementia Network.
- Works with partners to develop and implement strategies and activities to achieve the goals of the Network.
- Reaches out to diverse communities in Toronto and works to ensure that individuals with dementia and their families have access to services that respect the dignity of the individual, regardless of their cultural or linguistic background, or their individual circumstance.
- Initiates evaluations of Network strategies and activities, to determine their effectiveness in fulfilling stated needs.
- Responds to evaluations by modifying or implementing new strategies and activities to meet stated needs.