



MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT TEAM

Over the past six months, three new sub-projects have been developed and launched by our Collaborating Organizations. We are excited for these new projects to begin supporting older adults with dementia and their care partners in Yorkton and surrounding rural communities. Along with Collaborating Organizations, a Community Table made up of local community champions, and an Advisory Committee, we are developing our Collective Impact approach towards enhancing social inclusion. We look forward to continuing this collaborative work and seeing it evolve.

Project Team,
Dementia Supports in Rural Saskatchewan

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For more information, please visit:



RuralDementiaSK.ca



[@RuralDementiaSK](https://www.facebook.com/RuralDementiaSK)



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Needs Assessment Completed



In January 2021, Parkland Valley Sport, Culture and Recreation District conducted a Needs Assessment that studied ways to create dementia-friendly, socially-inclusive activities in small and rural communities. The research focus areas included Preeceville, Sturgis, Norquay, Canora, Kamsack, Ituna, Yorkton and Melville, Saskatchewan.

To read the full Needs Assessment Report, please visit our project website: RuralDementiaSK.ca

Survey Results

A full report on the Dementia Knowledge Survey results is available on our website RuralDementiaSK.ca.

Results from the Dementia Knowledge Survey provide baseline information for population level knowledge and levels of stigma related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia in Yorkton and surrounding rural area.

A project flyer titled 'Yorkton and Area Exciting New Project' with the subtitle 'Let's make our communities dementia friendly'. It includes a photo of two women smiling and holding a cup. The flyer contains the following text:

What is it all about?
Dementia Supports in Rural Saskatchewan is a five year project focusing on improving the quality of life of people living with dementia and their care partners in rural Saskatchewan. The project is based in Yorkton and the surrounding rural communities. The project is led by the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit (SPHERU) at the University of Regina and funded by the Government of Canada.

Who is at the table?
Local organizations that have been part of the initial discussions and planning include:
Parkland Valley Sport, Culture & Recreation District
Yorkton Public Library
Parkland Regional Library
Sask Abilities - Yorkton
SIGN
City of Yorkton
The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

Local Communities Finding Local Solutions
Dementia Supports in Rural Saskatchewan will invest in local solutions created by partners in the Yorkton and surrounding rural communities to make our communities more accessible and inclusive for people living with dementia and their care partners.

Admail Campaign

A project flyer was mailed to every household in Yorkton and surrounding rural areas this spring from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan. This mail campaign provided information about the project and organizations involved. Local residents will receive more updates through the mail this summer as projects develop!



New Sub-projects Launched

We are excited to announce the launch of three new sub-projects that will provide supports for people living with dementia and their care partners in Yorkton and surrounding rural communities. SaskAbilities, the City of Yorkton, and the Alzheimer Society are the selected Collaborating Organizations.

The three new sub-projects include a Dementia Friendly life enrichment program led by SaskAbilities, a public indoor facility audit led by the City of Yorkton, and an awareness campaign to help organizations and community groups become more inclusive and accessible for people living with dementia led by the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan.

Collaborating Organizations & Sub-projects

Collective Impact

SaskAbilities

Dementia Friendly Life Enrichment Program

This program aims to enhance the quality of life of individuals living with dementia in Yorkton and surrounding rural communities. Two Dementia Friendly Facilitators will work with individuals and their families to develop person centred plans. These plans will guide personalized programming and activities that will be facilitated in the individual's home and community.



City of Yorkton

Public Indoor Facility Project

The City of Yorkton's Public Indoor Facility Audit project will encourage facilities to be more inclusive and accessible for seniors living in Yorkton, including those living with dementia. The City of Yorkton will hire an independent contractor and community members with lived experiences to help assess public indoor environments and create an Age/Dementia Friendly Facilities Audit Report.

Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

Public Awareness Campaign

The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan will connect with local communities in and around Yorkton with a focus on building awareness about dementia, reducing stigma, and inviting the involvement of organizations and businesses in dementia friendly community initiatives that can improve accessibility and inclusion for people living with dementia.



A new sub-project starting in October 2021:

Godfrey Dean Art Gallery

Belong Where You Find Yourself

By directly involving people living with dementia and their care partners, this project will contribute to a feeling of inclusion. Participants will meet at the gallery, collaborate on art making, share stories, and spend time over more than a year, ultimately seeing their work and their stories on display in a public art gallery.



WHAT IS COLLECTIVE IMPACT?

Collective Impact is a structured approach to problem solving that includes five core elements:

- **Common Agenda:** all participants have a shared vision for change, including a common understanding of the problem and a commitment to a joint action
- **Shared Measurement:** collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants to ensure efforts remain aligned and participants can hold each other accountable
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities:** being coordinated through a jointly developed plan of action
- **Continuous Communication:** consistent and open communication is needed to build trust, ensure mutual objectives and appreciate common motivation
- **Backbone Support:** dedicated staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the initiative and coordinate organizations and agencies

For more information on the Collective Impact approach, visit this link:

<https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca>



Policy Brief

Enhancing Social Inclusion for Older Adults Living with Dementia: A Community-Based Collective Impact Approach in Rural Saskatchewan

Excerpt from JSGS Policy Brief published April 28, 2021:

By Tom McIntosh, Akram Mahani, Bonnie Jeffery and Nuelle Novik, Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, University of Regina

The social isolation of older adults, especially those living with dementia, is a global challenge and Canada is no exception. Most factors that contribute to social isolation among older adults are systemic, such as the stigma of dementia, ageism, poverty, and inadequate access to resources and supports.

“My husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. One Sunday, I was not feeling well and decided to stay home from Church so he went to Church himself. When he returned home he was upset. “Not one person spoke to me at Church today”, he said. We knew most of these people and considered them our friends. I was surprised at how my husband was treated and so I spoke to the Pastor. The next Sunday and every Sunday after that people made a deliberate effort to come and speak to my husband. These people in Church did not intentionally ignore my husband. They didn’t know what to say to him. So they said nothing. He felt ignored and isolated. We must find ways to inform people about this awful disease and provide programs to include people with dementia. Otherwise these sufferers and their caregivers will continue to feel isolated, ostracized and alone.”

*-Advisory Committee Member,
Dementia Supports in Rural Saskatchewan*

**To read the full publication, please visit:
<https://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca>**



Featured Resource

The Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan's First Link® program connects people living with dementia and their families to information, support services and education as early as possible and throughout the progression of the disease. Find out more about First Link® through the website: <https://alzheimer.ca/sk/>

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

FUNDED BY



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CONTACT

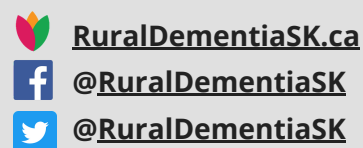
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