

Dementia:

Understanding the Journey

Annual Report

April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021





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About Us

In 1991, an ambitious and dedicated group of individuals involved in long term care gathered together in Pictou County to form the Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementia Advisory Committee (ADRDAC). In 2006, this group incorporated as a Society under the name Nova Scotia Alzheimer Disease and Other Dementia Care Course. With the 7th Edition, the group changed its incorporated name to Dementia: Understanding the Journey Society.

The educational goal of the founding committee was to develop a provincially recognized course to address the needs of persons living with dementia; based on the philosophy that persons with dementia have the same basic needs for security, shelter, nutrition, and affection as other adults, and have the same rights to have these basic needs met.

Over the years, the Board of Directors has been comprised of a variety of dedicated individuals from a number of backgrounds; including physicians, nurses, recreation and occupational therapists, dieticians, educators, administrators, and family members.

The group continues to change but their focus remains the same, to promote a person-centred approach to providing care and services for persons living with dementia through the ongoing development, promotion, and administration of Dementia: Understanding the Journey.

The efforts of the Board are further enhanced by strong relationships with health care employers and employer associations, the Department of Health and Wellness, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, post-secondary education institutions, and Veterans' Services Canada. Together we seek to maintain and build upon the success of our course.

1991
ADODCC Course
Developed

1993
Endorsement by
key provincial
stakeholders

1996
Course adapted for
delivery by distance

1997
Impact Study
complete

2000
Compulsory
component of the
CCA Program

2002
Revised Course
released

2003
HANS Managing
Body of the Course

2006
Committee
incorporated as a
Society

2008
Revised Course
released

2009
Compulsory
component of the
Practical Nursing
Program

Message from the Chair

Thank you for another exciting year for Dementia: Understanding the Journey! This year has been one of change and adaptation to a whole new normal for all of us. Our focus was on the strategic plan and assessing our accomplishments. We now look forward to the future and our new goals in this ever-changing world.

The strategic planning process has brought us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far the course has come. From its humble grassroots beginning in 1991 to currently over 20,000 learners, the course has celebrated many milestones along the way. Throughout the almost 30 years the course has been running, we have celebrated becoming a component in the CCA, PN, and RN programs, 7 revisions, advances in facilitator tools and much more! Throughout this evolution, DUTJ Society has continued to work on our core goal, improving dementia care through education.

I want to thank all those who have helped us grow along the way. As we move forward creating new goals for the program, we recognize we would not be here without the support of board members, facilitators, delivering organizations, program administration, and learners, past and present!

In the face of Covid19, over the last year the board and facilitators have continued to improve our online course allowing us to adapt to our new normal.

We have developed online tools and administrative processes to ensure learners are able to gain their certificate during this time.

We look forward with excitement to next year when we will begin action on our new goals; building on the program's legacy of consistent dementia education for all, with a new focus on ingenuity, delivery standards and expansion.

Jody MacDonald, Chair

2012

New Mission,
Vision and Values
established

2013

Course is delivered
online for the first
time

2014

Dalhousie makes
ADODCC
mandatory for first
year nursing
students

2016

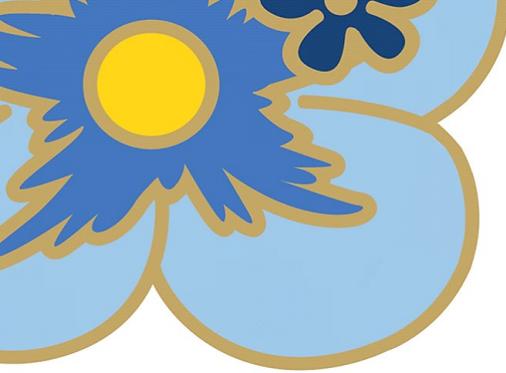
7th Edition
released with the
new name
Dementia:
Understanding the
Journey.
Component of the
Cape Breton
University nursing
program

2018

Facilitator's manual
update released.

2019

Component of the
St. FX University
nursing program.



Accomplishing Our Goals

As part of our strategic planning process, the Dementia: Understanding the Journey Society revised the mission, vision, and values. It is important to the Board that we continue emphasizing our primary objective of providing quality dementia education while embracing the future and expanding our reach. With the help of strategic planning facilitator Wayne Marsh, the Board is excited to unveil our new mission, vision, and values:

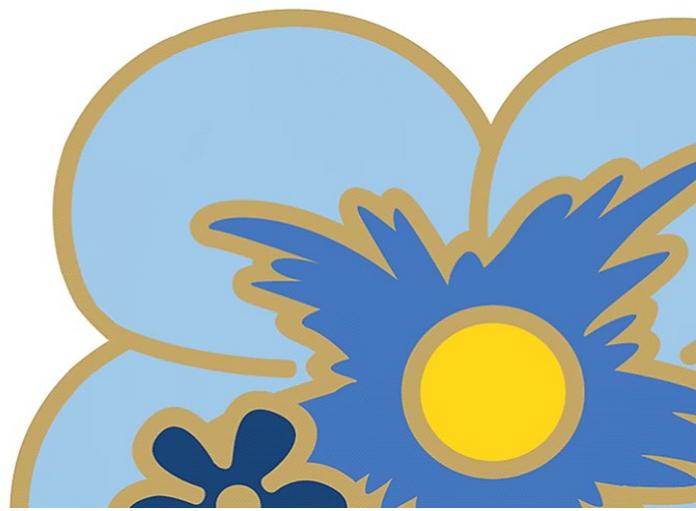
Mission: To embrace Dementia education as a tool to enhance quality of life

Vision: Excellent dementia care for all

Values: Innovation that fuels transformation

Life-long learning that is person-centered, evidence-informed and current

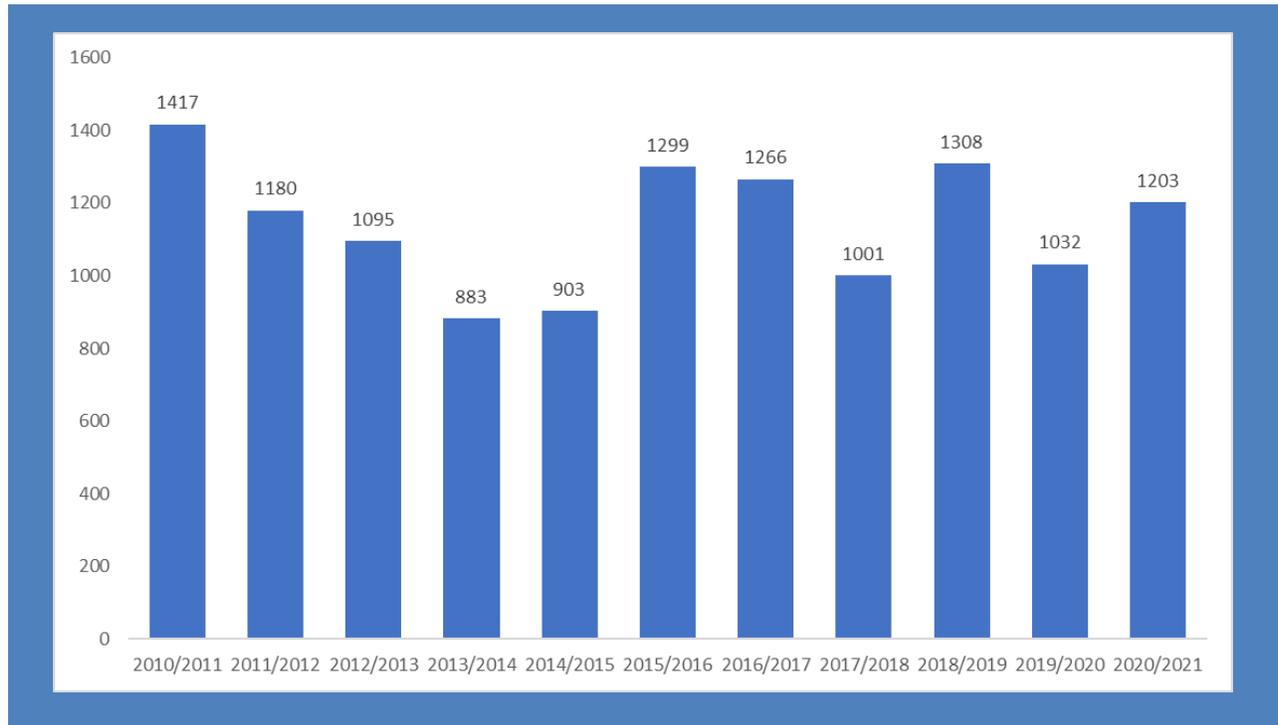
Dynamic relationships built on collaboration



Our Year in Review

Course Delivery and Statistics

For the fiscal year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, 26 organizations delivered 50 courses which resulted in a total of 1203 certificates issued. The table below represents certificates issued over the past 10 years:



Facilitator Orientation

Marlene Fairhurst-Vaughan facilitated two sessions virtually for a total of 23 new facilitators. The orientation sessions featured a review of new materials and activities to get to know the manuals, as well as a review of administrative procedures.

Evaluations were very positive:

Well presented
and very
meaningful!

Thank you for the work that
went into this course.
Comprehensive, well laid out
and user friendly!

Looking Ahead

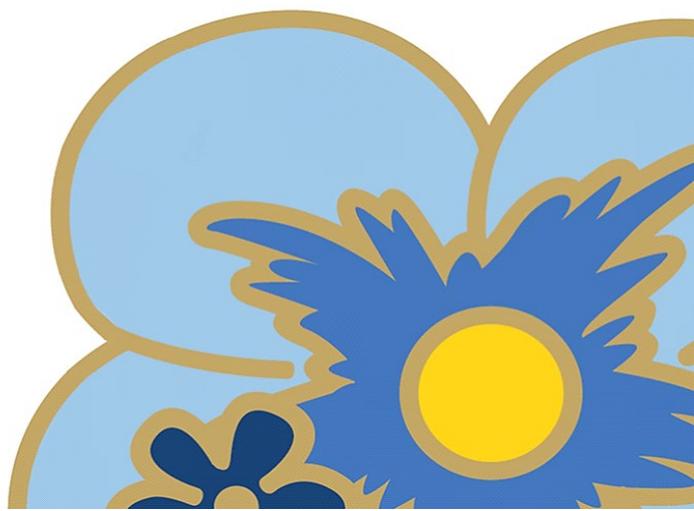
We look forward to the new and exciting direction our strategic planning will take us. This year we will continue to develop our new goals which include further development of the facilitation process and standards.

Expand participation in Dementia: Understanding the Journey

The course has been a component of the Continuing Care Assistant program since 2000, the Practical Nursing program since 2009, the Dalhousie School of Nursing since 2014, Cape Breton University Nursing Program since 2016, and most recently part of the St. FX Nursing program as of 2019. As a component of these programs, consistent foundational knowledge is incorporated across three key members of the care team.

Conferences

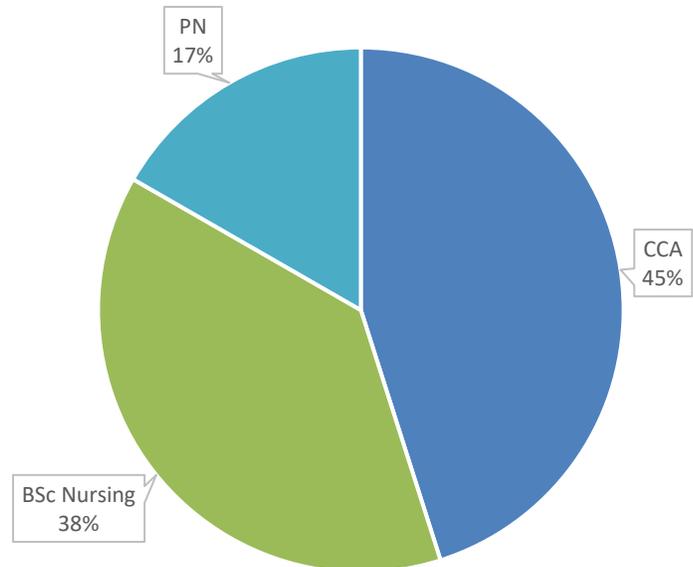
We look forward to participating when conferences resume.



Collect and use evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of the education and care practices the course advocates for

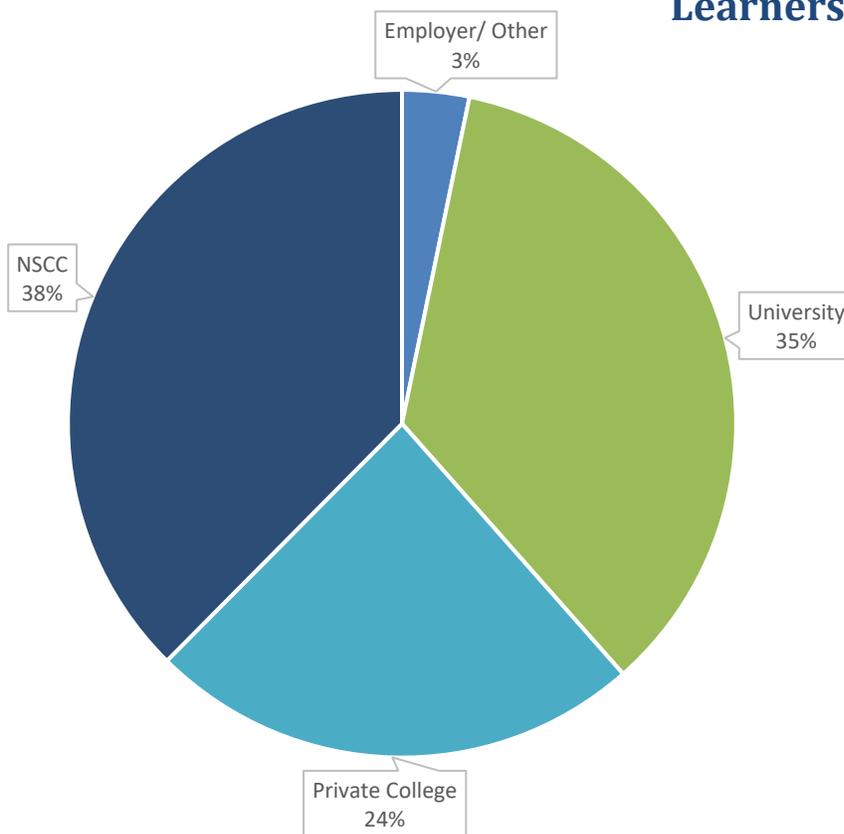
Upon completing the course, learners submit an Information Form which asks them to indicate their role (student, health care professional, administration, etc.) and role type (CCA, LPN, RN, Dietary, etc.). This information helps us understand more about the learner population of the course and how it evolves over time. In 2020/2021, 97% of learners were students, with 45% of those students in the CCA program, 38% in the BSc Nursing program, and 17% in the PN program.

Students by Role Type



Learners by Organization Type

We are also able to identify the organization type and location through which the learner has taken the course. The chart to the right indicates the percentage of certificates issued from various organizations. Most learners attended the course through an education institution with 38% from NSCC, 35% from a university and 24% from a private college



Learner Feedback

Very well organized, planned, specifically with videos and role plays.

I learned a lot from this course and plan to use everything I have learned from it in my future career as a CCA.

Very thankful to have had the opportunity to take this course!
Thank you.

I enjoyed hearing how people in my class were using the information. Different opinions and experiences played an important role in learning.

The course is very informative and would recommend to anyone wanting to learn in depth about dementia to look into taking the course if they could.

I am so glad to have the opportunity to learn so much about dementia. To understand how it not only changes the person but to help support them.

Great course!

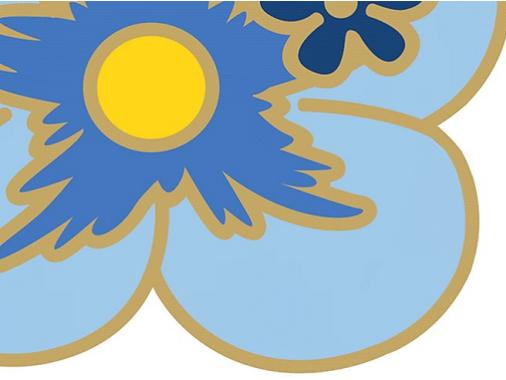
Board of Directors and Administration

<i>Name and Contact Information</i>	<i>Representing/Term Ending</i>
Linda Bird Email: linda.bird@asns.ca	Alzheimer Society Nova Scotia Appointed
Helen DeYoung Email: helend@futureworx.ca	Education Institution March 31, 2021
Lisa Doucet Email: lisa.doucet@dal.ca	Education Institution March 31, 2021
Roberta Duchesne Email: roberta.duchesne@nshealth.ca	Acute Care June 30, 2022
Marlene Fairhurst-Vaughan Email: mfvaughan@gmail.com	Family Support March 31, 2021
Paul Fieldhouse Email: paul.fieldhouse@nshealth.ca	Challenging Behaviours Appointed
Carrie Frazier Email: cfrazier@hvh.ca	Continuing Care March 31, 2022
Joanne Hughes Email: joanne.hughes@nshealth.ca	Member at Large March 31, 2021
Karen Huntley-Comeau Email: karen@dchsa.ca	Continuing Care (Home Care) November 31, 2022
Sarah Krieger-Frost Email: Sarah.Krieger-Frost@nshealth.ca	Vice Chair / Mental Health March 31, 2021
Jody MacDonald, Chair Email: jmacdonald@shannex.com	Chair / Continuing Care March 31, 2021
Marie McPhee Email: marie.mcphee@nshealth.ca	Veterans Services March 31, 2021
Vacant	Continuing Care
Vacant	Department of Health and Wellness Appointed
Vacant	Education Institution
Pam Fowler Email: pam.fowler@healthassociation.ns.ca	Course Administrator Ex-officio
Lynn Peters Email: lynn.peters@healthassociation.ns.ca	Course Administration

Call for nominations are issued when positions are available. Nominations to fill vacancies on the Board are accepted from individuals as well as designated organizations. The Board makes the final selection of membership using a selection matrix.

Lynn Peters, Dementia: Understanding the Journey
2 Dartmouth Road Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 2K7
Phone: (902) 832-8500 ext. 282
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Pam Fowler, Dementia: Understanding the Journey
2 Dartmouth Road Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 2K7
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Email: pam.fowler@healthassociation.ns.ca



Welcome!

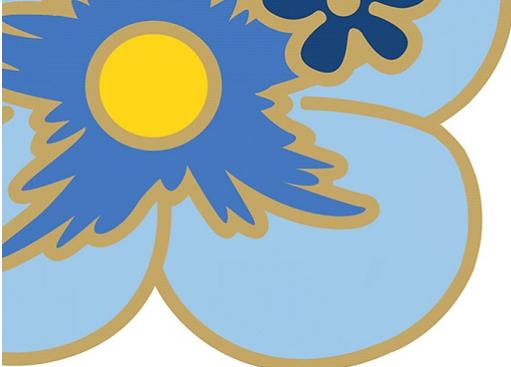
Welcoming New Board Members

A special *Welcome* to the following members who have just started a 3-year term on the Board. We look forward to your contribution to the Dementia: Understanding the Journey Society and working with you over the next few years!



Helen DeYoung – Education Institution





Thank You!

Recognizing Past Board Members

A special *Thank You* to the following member who left this year for their dedication and support while serving on the Dementia: Understanding the Journey Society, Board of Directors.

Best of luck in your future endeavors!



Marie Barnes – Member at Large



Lillian Cochran – Education Institution