

NORTH WEST DEMENTIA WORKING GROUP

House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

April 29, 2015

Dear Members of Parliament,

We are the North West Dementia Working Group, a consumer group of people living with dementia and care partners formed in March 2014. Our membership is open to people living with dementia and care partners in Northwestern Ontario. This group is comprised of members who are actively involved and committed to influencing public policies and services for people living with dementia at the local, provincial and national levels.

We were recently shocked to learn about the Conservative opposition to Bill C-356, An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Dementia. We were excited that the government was prepared to support the bill, and were very disappointed that the Conservatives have now withdrawn their support. Introducing a non-binding motion rather than a law means no mandate to act, no real leadership from Ottawa, no help for us now, no help for others living with and affected by dementia, and no help for those in the future.

It is an embarrassment that Canada is the only G7 country that does not have a national dementia strategy.

As people living with dementia and care partners, we believe that action needs to be taken today. This can easily be rectified by passing into law Bill C-356 on May 6.

It goes without saying that dementia should be non-partisan. **We plead with you to vote with your conscience on May 6.**

Sincerely,

North West Dementia Working Group

For more information, please see our website: <http://www.northwestdementianetwork.ca/north-west-dementia-working-group.html>

If you would like to contact us, please fill out the contact form at:
<http://www.northwestdementianetwork.ca/contact-us.html>