



Home > News Events > Media Centre And News  
April 7, 2009

## “Dementia E-Learning” now on Northern Health website

Northern BC residents with dementia, their caregivers, health professionals and the public now have access to new information and support resources with the addition of the “Dementia E-Learning” module to the Northern Health website.

“We are committed to investing not just in the search for a cure and better treatments for dementia but also in the search for a better life for the thousands of British Columbians and their families who struggle with dementia,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “The Northern Health website, which contains this unique and meaningful dementia care resource information, is based on input from people who live with dementia.”

Over the past year, the Northern Health Best Practices Team for Senior Services, with support from Harrigan Consulting, developed, designed and piloted dementia self-learning modules for support and clinical staff. The modules are based on recently-developed Clinical Practice Guidelines for Care of the Older Adult.



“Web-based electronic learning availability is recognized as a vital strategy to support learning opportunities for all care providers and the sharing of knowledge relating to dementia care in all settings including the community, residential and acute care” said Tim Rowe, Northern Health’s Executive Director, Home and Community Care. “This E-resource will help to improve care for those with dementia, not only in rural and remote areas, but throughout the Province.”

The Dementia E-Learning web site provides access to user-friendly dementia information to health professionals, persons with dementia, caregivers and their families. This resource can be used in a variety of ways, including staff orientation, and it links to other dementia information such as The Dementia Journey. The modules will also be available in CD and DVD formats.

“More than 70,000 people in our province have dementia, many of them living in northern communities where resources and education for them and their families can be more difficult to access,” said Rosemary Rawnsley, executive director of the Alzheimer Society of B.C. “This initiative makes important information accessible and flexible, and is a great model for reaching out in other regions.”

The Dementia E-Learning initiative was funded through the Alzheimer Society of B.C.’s \$1-million Grant to Improve Dementia Care in B.C., which supported six other initiatives including the province-wide Dementia Journey website ([dementiajourney.ca](http://dementiajourney.ca)).

The Dementia E-Learning project information can be found at [http://www.northernhealth.ca/your\\_Health/Health\\_Topics/Dementia/default.asp](http://www.northernhealth.ca/your_Health/Health_Topics/Dementia/default.asp). The first module is a foundational one—for all staff and the community, the second module has a clinical focus. The Dementia E-Learning project is a work in progress and more modules are planned.

Media contact: NH media line   (250) 961-7724 