

Revera Scholar to Conduct Groundbreaking Research on Impact of Public Guardianship on Health and Care Needs in Long Term Care Homes in Western Canada

Alzheimer Society of Canada and Revera fund first Canadian study exploring social isolation and its impact on care of vulnerable seniors living with dementia

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario, October 6, 2016 -- When Stephanie Chamberlain began working as a personal support worker in an Ontario long term care home, she saw first-hand that residents without family or social support networks experienced unique challenges in their health and care needs. This issue prompted her future studies in Gerontology.

Today, the Alzheimer Society of Canada and Revera Inc., a leading owner, operator and investor in the senior living sector, are pleased to announce that they will be funding the research of Ms. Chamberlain, an Alzheimer Society of Canada Doctoral Fellow at the University of Alberta, as a “Revera Scholar.” Ms. Chamberlain’s graduate work will, for the first time, examine the impact of public guardianship on resident health and care needs in long term care in Western Canada. Revera will provide \$30,000 of support and the Alzheimer Society of Canada will provide \$36,000.

In every province, a Public Guardian and Trustee can be appointed to act on behalf of a person who lacks a family/friend support system and is mentally incapable of dealing with treatment and admission to long term care themselves.

“We know how vital family and friend support is for seniors, but the reality is that there are many vulnerable seniors in long term care residences who do not have that support,” said Revera Scholar Stephanie Chamberlain. “Individuals under public guardianship are more likely to have Alzheimer’s disease or dementia than those with family or friend guardians. I expect this research will uncover potential differences in care needs and planning for seniors without social support and provide new ideas and new approaches to support them.”

Ms. Chamberlain said that estimates suggest approximately half of the nearly 3,000 adults under public guardianship in Alberta are over 65. Beyond that there is little information about their health or their specific needs.

“We’re delighted that through our Revera Scholar partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Canada we’re able to support Canadian research into the needs of older adults,” said Thomas Wellner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Revera Inc. “We hope this research provides insights that will help us, and all long term care providers, better support older adults who are under public guardianship.”

Ms. Chamberlain’s research intends to combine primary data from interviews, resident assessments from Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba, and surveys of all 173 long term care facilities in Alberta, to determine the needs of seniors in this vulnerable group. The findings will guide new recommendations for improving quality care for people under public guardianship.

While Ms. Chamberlain’s research is the first academic research on this topic in Canada, she sees it as a first step towards developing a national study and recommendations that would look at public guardianship, its impact on vulnerable seniors and how the group - typically older females with multiple chronic conditions - can best be cared for.

“Stephanie’s research provides an opportunity to gather a much-needed snapshot of the health outcomes of individuals under public guardianship,” said Debbie Benczkowski, Chief Operating Officer at the Alzheimer Society of Canada. “We appreciate Revera’s support since Stephanie’s work will help us identify challenges and improve care for this particular group of people living in long term care residences.”

The Revera Scholar’s research findings and progress will be presented in various forums across Canada over the next three years.

Through Revera Giving, Revera’s communities and corporate offices have raised more than \$600,000 to support the work of the Alzheimer Society of Canada over the past five years.

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About Revera Inc.

Revera is a leading owner, operator and investor in the senior living sector. Through its portfolio of partnerships, Revera owns or operates more than 500 properties across Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom, serving more than 50,000 seniors. The company offers seniors’ apartments, independent living, assisted living, memory care, and long term care. With approximately 45,000 employees dedicated to providing exceptional care and service, Revera is helping seniors live life to the fullest. Through [Age is More](#),



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Revera is committed to challenging ageism, the company's social cause of choice. Find out more at ReveraLiving.com, [Facebook.com/ReveraInc](https://www.facebook.com/ReveraInc) or on Twitter [@Revera Inc.](https://twitter.com/Revera_Inc)

About the Alzheimer Society of Canada

The Alzheimer Society is the leading nationwide health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Active in communities across Canada, the Society offers help for today through programs and services, and hope for tomorrow by funding research into the cause, prevention and a cure. To learn more or find an Alzheimer Society near you, visit <http://www.alzheimer.ca>

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