Happy Saskatchewan Library Week from the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan

Happy Saskatchewan Library Week - an excellent way to recognize the many contributions libraries and individuals like you make to communities across the province!

On behalf of the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, I'd like to take a moment to express our appreciation for your support in building understanding and awareness about dementia in your communities. In fact, libraries have been making a difference for people affected by dementia in communities across the province by hosting Alzheimer Society presentations for members of the public, being the meeting site for Caregiver Support Groups, sharing posters and materials to help community members to learn more, and by beginning to incorporate tips and ideas from our Dementia Friendly Toolkit for Libraries to become more inclusive, supportive, and accessible.

Over the course of the past three years, I've had the pleasure of connecting with contacts at public libraries across the province and completing ABC's of Dementia and Dementia Friendly Communities presentations at many of them, too. On many occasions, attendees of these events have commented about how hosting the presentation at a library provided a welcoming, comfortable place to come to learn more. As I reflect on these community visits, some of the highlights that immediately come to mind include:

- the recent success of a room full of eager-to-learn attendees in the Allie Griffin Auditorium at the Weyburn Public Library;
- the kind welcome, conversation and homemade refreshments offered by members of the Prairie River Public Library;
- the amazing space with enviable acoustics at the North Battleford Library where we co-presented with a member of our Leadership Group for People with Dementia; and
- the sense of nostalgia in being able to present in the Kennedy Public Library where I grew up reading.

To these libraries and all those in between, thank you. We understand the impact libraries have on their communities as important hubs for accessing information, connecting with others, learning more and being inspired. We feel that you are important community partners to continue to connect with.

We hope to continue to work together in the future to build understanding about dementia, improve awareness about what individuals living with it can experience, dispel myths and misconceptions, and empower people and places to become more dementia friendly, too.

*P.S. If you'd like to know more about the work of the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan, our **2018-2019 Annual Report** offers highlights about our work over the course of the last year and is available to view on our website here. The **Dementia Friendly Toolkit – Library Edition** is also available in .pdf or hard copy upon request. Finally, in case it is of interest to you or others you know, an upcoming event poster is attached – this is a free event that is open to the public and available at Telehealth sites around the province.*

Kind regards,
Abby Wolfe, BKin
Public Awareness Coordinator
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