
Partnerships in Dementia Care (PiDC) Alliance Connection

*Providing Updates; Communicating Findings; Sharing
Resources, Connecting Partners
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walk with me

...changing the culture of aging in Canada

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WALK WITH ME CONFERENCE 2014 – CHANGING THE CULTURE OF AGING

The PiDC Alliance was thrilled to be a feature sponsor and to have been involved in the planning of the first national Canadian conference on changing the culture of aging — *Walk With Me* — presented from March 23-25, 2014 by the Research Institute for Aging, and the Schlegel Centre for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care.

Walk with Me was a great success and included older adults and residents, formal and informal care partners, management, educators, policy-makers and researchers.

Keynote presentations included Barry Barkan (co-founder of the Pioneer Network and champion for culture change), Dr. Bill Thomas (founder of The Eden Alternative), and a live performance of the research-based drama "Cracked: New Light on Dementia" based on the research of Drs. Sherry Dupuis, Gail Mitchell, Pia Kontos, and Christine Jonas-Simpson and written and directed by Julia Gray. Concurrent sessions covered diverse topics from person-centred and relational care to the built environment. Presentations can be viewed online at www.the-ria.ca/walkwithme

Delegates described their experiences as: *inspiring, engaging, enlightening, excellent, thought-provoking and positive.*

From Discovery to Dream

Aspiring Toward Culture Change in Dementia Care

Partnering Together for Change Coalition

Members of the Partnering Together for Change (PTC) Culture Change Coalition

(Bloomington Cove, Specialty Care) presented a workshop on the second (Discovery) and third (Dream) phases of the Appreciative Inquiry culture change process.

Participants learned how the PTC Coalition worked together to discover what gives life to Bloomington Cove and how they used the information to dream an ideal future. The participants were engaged through discussion and creative small group activities where they envisioned their own ideals for a culture of care, created their own aspiration statements around those ideals, and shared examples of how those aspirations could be lived.



Changing the Culture of Dementia Care in a Community Care Setting:

Dawning, a Culture Change Process

Huron County Culture Change Coalition

Lorna de Witt, RN, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Darla Fortune, PhD (PiDC Alliance), and Tammy Antaya (OneCare) presented a workshop where participants learned about the initial phase of our AI process, Dawn. Participants were given the opportunity to take part in activities shaped around establishing a coalition, building authentic partnerships, and developing knowledge and skills for the process.

Strategies were shared for overcoming the challenges faced during this early stage of culture change and for building strong, trusting relationships needed to move the process forward. Participants gained new insights on how community care culture change coalitions could effectively be established in their own communities.

The Road to Culture Change

The Village of Wentworth Heights—Reaching for New Heights

Kristie Wiedenfeld, Marie Van Louwe & Tiffany van Someren (Village of Wentworth Heights)

presented a workshop about their experiences during the culture change journey as they work through the Destiny cycle of the Appreciative Inquiry process. They shared their successes which include an Aspiration Education Day, an Aspirations-In-Action Photo Contest, and a resident Paint-A-Picture project. The team also shared some of their “road-blocks” or challenges, such as difficulty finding family participants and the importance of using resident-centred language. Participants were engaged in activities such as creating a safe and secure environment for advisory team meetings and designing a culture change t-shirt slogan which helped them visualize their own culture change journey.

On PAR with Culture Change Guiding Principles and Practical Strategies for a Collaborative Journey

Jennifer Carson (PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo) presented two workshops about her Participatory Action Research (PAR) with Schlegel Villages. During the first workshop, participants reflected on the culture change movement and their own experiences through the lens of ‘participation’. They also explored the use of PAR as an inclusive, engaging and effective change strategy and learned about the successful applications of PAR within the culture change movement. In the second workshop, participants learned how Schlegel Villages, embarked on a strengths-based, collaborative approach to culture change guided by PAR and Appreciative Inquiry. Through engagement in activities, participants learned how residents, family members, and team members worked collaboratively to discover their strengths, share their dreams for a more ideal future, design aspiration statements, and develop goals and action steps to turn their aspirations into operational realities. Participants gained tools and strategies to help their organization embark on a collaborative and rewarding culture change journey.

Aligning Leisure Policy and Practices with Culture Change Values

Dr. Sherry Dupuis, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Jennifer Carson, PhD Candidate (University of Waterloo), Dr. Darla Fortune, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Mary Schulz (Alzheimer Society of Canada), & Dr. Colleen Whyte, PhD (Brock University)

Drawing on examples from projects that have focussed on the role of leisure in the culture change process, this session provided a safe space for participants to critically reflect on the current discourse and practice of leisure and therapeutic recreation in long-term care settings. It also created opportunities for learning and sharing from others' specific examples of how they are aligning leisure policy and practices with the culture change values. This process opened participants up to new possibilities for leisure practices in their own long-term care environments.

Supporting the Emergence of Cultural Change by Re-Imagining Dementia through the Arts

Dr. Christine Jonas-Simpson, PhD (York University), Dr. Sherry Dupuis, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Dr. Gail Mitchell, PhD (York University), Dr. Pia Kontos, PhD (Toronto Rehabilitation Institute/ University Health Network) & Julia Gray, PhD Candidate (University of Toronto)

The facilitators shared visual representations and poetic expressions from an innovative arts and community-based research project that explored the implications of the tragedy discourse for persons and families experiencing dementia, and what an alternative discourse of dementia might look like.

Participants reflected on their own images of dementia, engaged with the artistic expressions, and created new images and understandings of dementia that emerged in the moment. Participants learned how the arts can be used in culture change initiatives to challenge the dominant and stigmatizing tragedy discourse that constructs dementia and aging.



Engaged Older Adults/Residents Award



Congratulations! to our Partnering Together for Change Coalition for being one of four groups who received the Engaged Older Adults/Residents Challenge Award at the Walk with Me Conference. The **Bloomington Cove Living Quilts** art piece was submitted by Lisa Meschino and Sarah Smith on behalf of the residents.

Cracked: New Light on Dementia Play

Cracked: new light on dementia was featured as a keynote presentation at the conference. It is an innovative research-based theatre production that casts a critical light on society's one-dimensional view of dementia as an unmitigated tragedy. The play is intended to inspire alternative ways of seeing persons with dementia, instill the importance of maintaining strong relationships with them, and reinforce the imperative for good ethical care. It is based on research conducted by Drs. Sherry Dupuis, Gail Mitchell, Pia Kontos, and Christine Jonas-Simpson, all of whom are health researchers who



specialize in the areas of aging, dementia, and research-based drama. Reviews describe the play as... ***"Powerful" "Expansive" "Humbling" "Profound" "Bittersweet" "Honest" "Refreshing" "Moving" "Breathtaking" "Inspiring" "Hopeful" "Thought provoking" "Allowed me to see dementia from a different side. (I) was able to see through the eyes of the person with dementia."***

Cracked: New Light on Dementia is showing May 9th, 10th and 15th at the SpringWorks theatre festival, Stratford. <http://www.springworksfestival.ca/shows/cracked.htm> Additional showing: May 14th at Highview Residences, London. www.cracked.eventbrite.ca @crackeddementia

Partnerships in Dementia Care (PiDC) Alliance Partners

Culture Change Coalition Sites

[Bloomington Cove Specialty Care](#)
[Huron County Culture Change Coalition](#)
[The Village of Wentworth Heights](#)
[Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care](#)

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PiDC Alliance Partners

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[Alzheimer Society of Canada](#)
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[Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health](#)
[Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation
Network](#)
[Canadian Gerontological Nurses Association](#)

[Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in
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University of Waterloo](#)
[Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University](#)
[Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University](#)
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[National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly](#)
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[Office of the Vice-President, Research,
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[Seniors Health Research Transfer Network](#)
[Sheridan Elder Research Centre, Sheridan College](#)
[South West Community Care Access Centre](#)
[South West Local Health Integration Network](#)
[Specialized Geriatric Services of Southwestern Ontario](#)
[The Village of Wentworth Heights](#)
[University of British Columbia](#)
[Waterloo-Wellington LTCH Linkages](#)
[Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care](#)

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