

# PiDC Alliance Connection Newsletter

PROVIDING UPDATES • COMMUNICATING FINDINGS • SHARING RESOURCES • CONNECTING PARTNERS



**walk with me**

...changing the culture of aging in Canada

## 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](http://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.

## 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.



## 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.



## 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.

**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.

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



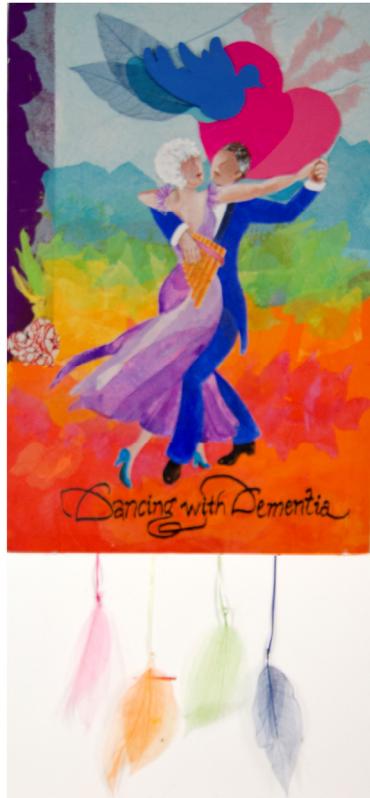
**Dr. Sherry Dupuis, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Jennifer Carson, PhD Candidate (University of Waterloo), Dr. Darla Fortune, PhD (PiDC Alliance), Mary Schulz (Alzheimer Society of Canada), & Dr. Colleen Whyte, PhD (Brock University)**

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 a 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.

### **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...

*"Thought provoking"    "Powerful"    "Breathtaking"*

*"Profound"    "Expansive"    "Bittersweet"*

*"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](http://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](#)

## Research Management Team

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Kim Fitzpatrick, [Specialty Care, Inc.](#)  
Amy Go, [Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care](#)  
David Harvey, [Alzheimer Society of Ontario](#)  
Paul Holyoke, [Saint Elizabeth Health Centre](#)  
Janet Iwaszczenko, [Bloomington Cove](#)  
Sharon Kaaslainen, [McMaster University](#)  
Ken LeClair, [Queen's University](#)  
Carol McWilliam, [Western University](#)  
Jenny Ploeg, [McMaster University](#)  
Bryan Smale, [University of Waterloo](#)  
Catherine Ward-Griffin, [Western University](#)  
Frances Westley, [University of Waterloo](#)  
Kristie Wiedenfeld, [Wentworth Heights](#)  
Josie D'Avernas, [Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging](#)  
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## PiDC Alliance Partners

[Advocacy Centre for the Elderly](#)  
[Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange](#)  
[Alzheimer Outreach Services](#)  
[Alzheimer Society of Canada](#)  
[Alzheimer Society, Hamilton and Halton](#)  
[Alzheimer Society, Huron County](#)  
[Alzheimer Society, London and Middlesex](#)  
[Alzheimer Society of Ontario](#)  
[Alzheimer Society, Peel](#)  
[Alzheimer Society, York Region](#)  
[Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health](#)  
[Canadian Dementia Knowledge Translation Network](#)  
[Canadian Gerontological Nurses Association](#)  
[Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities](#)  
[Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning](#)  
[Dementia Advocacy and Support Network International](#)

[Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University](#)  
[Department of Psychiatry, Queen's University](#)

[Division of Geriatric Psychiatry](#)  
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[Faculty of Applied Health Sciences](#)  
[University of Waterloo](#)  
[Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University](#)  
[Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University](#)  
[Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor](#)  
[Geriatric Psychiatry Program, Mount Sinai Hospital](#)  
[Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant LHIN](#)  
[Homewood Health Centre](#)  
[Java Music Club](#)  
[Local Health Integration Network - Central Long-Term and Continuing Care](#)  
[Association of Manitoba](#)  
[Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#)  
[Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program](#)  
[National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly](#)  
[Office of the President, University of Windsor](#)  
[Office of the Vice-President, Research, University of Waterloo](#)  
[One Care](#)  
[Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors](#)  
[Ontario Community Support Association](#)  
[Ontario Dementia Network](#)  
[Ontario Family Councils' Program](#)  
[Ontario Interdisciplinary Council of Aging and Health](#)  
[Ontario Long-Term Care Association](#)  
[Ontario PsychoGeriatric Association](#)  
[Ontario Seniors' Secretariat](#)  
[Regional Geriatric Program Central](#)  
[Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario](#)  
[Revera Incorporated](#)  
[Saint Elizabeth Health Care](#)  
[Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging](#)  
[School of Part-Time Studies, Algonquin College](#)  
[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](#)

**PiDC**

Partnerships  
in Dementia Care



*Enhancing Dementia Care for Everyone*

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