

Week 1

I am delighted to be in the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and working in the Centre for Research on Personhood in Dementia (CRPD) for the next four weeks. This is an interdisciplinary centre directed by Prof. Deborah O'Connor. It examines social, psychological and lifestyle influences on the experience of the person with dementia and their family. I met with a group of PhD candidates, post-doctoral researchers and professors affiliated with the centre last Friday. They come from a variety of disciplines including nursing, social work and law and had lots of insightful and interesting perspectives to share. There is an exciting and diverse range of research going on in the CRPD. Prof. Alison Phinney is leading a project on promoting social citizenship in early onset dementia. Other work on-going include research on care conferences, research on the alternative levels of care experience, research on assisted living and work on the law and elder abuse. More details of what's going on in the centre can be found at: <http://crpd.ubc.ca/research/current-projects/>. Two of the researchers affiliated with the centre, Dr. Gloria Purveen and Mariko Sakamoto won qualitative research awards for their PhD and Masters work respectively: <https://www.ualberta.ca/international-institute-for-qualitative-methodology/dissertation-awards/awards-recipients>.

A quick look at the Canadian dementia landscape reveals a similar story to Ireland in relation to ageing populations. In 2016, there was an estimated 564,000 people with dementia in Canada. This is expected to increase to 937,000 by 2031 (Chambers et al., 2016). The total health care and out of pocket cost for caring for people with dementia in 2016 was \$10.4 billion which is projected to double by 2031. This figure does not include the 19.2 million hours of informal care, valued at \$1.2 billion (Chambers et al., 2016). Canada does not have a National Dementia Strategy, however, in 2014 a nationwide commitment was made to develop one (The Alzheimer Society of Canada, 2015). The Alzheimer Society of Canada has played an important role in policy here and in 2010 produced a non-governmental strategy titled *The Rising Tide: the Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society* (Dudgeon). Since 1999 provincial and territorial dementia plans and strategies have been implemented. What is interesting from a policy perspective are the challenges of both setting, achieving and reconciling dementia plans and strategies at a provincial level with those at the federal level. This is something we don't have to contend with in Ireland, but given the geographical variety and size of British Columbia, let alone Canada it is not surprising.

CHAMBERS, L. W., BANCEJ, C. & MCDOWELL, I. 2016. Prevalence and Monetary Costs of Dementia in Canada: Population Health Expert Panel. Toronto: The Alzheimer Society of Canada.

DUDGEON, S. 2010. *Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society* Toronto: Alzheimer Society of Canada.

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF CANADA. 2015. The Canadian Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Partnership. A collective vision for a national dementia strategy for Canada. Available: http://www.alzheimer.ca/~media/Files/national/Advocacy/CADDP_Strategic_Objectives_e.pdf