

From: Toby Bossert <tobybossert.oreans@gmail.com>
Sent: October 4, 2018 12:56 PM
To: dementiajustice@outlook.com
Subject: Re: Dementia and Criminal Justice - Ottawa Municipal Election

Thank you for your question.

I am familiar with the effects of Dementia and Alzheimer's. My mother's aunt suffered from Alzheimer's but fortunately for her and my family she was not violent she was merely confused and had frequently repeated the same conversation over and over again.

I agree with many of your suggestions on this topic included in your submission to the Federal Department of Justice.

As our population ages, we need to work with our police services to ensure that seniors with dementia are treated fairly and with compassion.

We need to raise awareness in general about dementia. In the case, non-violent crimes associated with dementia such as shoplifting the justice system should be lenient.

But the topic of assault on family members or caregivers is a difficult topic. If an assault gets to the point where the police are involved then clearly the caregiver or the family of the patient no longer feel safe enough to provide care.

At that point, I would say we need to have beds set aside for violent dementia patients or even a specialized facility for those who have been accused or convicted of a crime that suffers from dementia. This facility would need to strike a balance between the safety of its staff and the comfort and dignity of its patients. This sort of undertaking is outside of the scope of municipal politics and it would likely need support from all three levels of government.

In the short term, I would propose that an area of our municipal long-term care homes be set aside for violent patients separating from other patients when necessary rather than having them end up in the prison system. We need to make sure that staff who provide care to these violent patients are properly trained and informed about the patient's history to avoid further incident.

Thank you again for your question and have a good day.

Sincerely

Toby Bossert

On Tue, Sep 18, 2018 at 5:01 PM Heather Pope <dementiajustice@outlook.com> wrote:

Dear Candidate:

On behalf of the Dementia Justice Society of Canada, I am writing to ask a campaign question: "If elected, how will you work to improve the lives of people with dementia who live in a municipal long-term care home and become involved with the criminal justice system (e.g., are violent toward staff or another resident and are charged with assault)?"

Dementia Justice is a federally-incorporated non-profit society dedicated to advancing the rights, needs and dignity of people with dementia who are, or are at risk of becoming, involved with the criminal justice system. We strive to achieve our objectives through public advocacy, awareness-raising, education, and interdisciplinary legal and policy research.

Our current volunteer advisory board members are:

- Nicole Dalmer, PhD candidate, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, University of Western Ontario;
- Professor Margaret Isabel Hall, Faculty of Law, Thompson Rivers University;
- Barbara Lindsay, Director of Advocacy and Education & Marketing and Communications, Alzheimer Society of British Columbia;
- Helene Love, doctoral candidate, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto;
- Aileen McGinty, Crown Attorney, Mental Health Court and Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; and
- Daina Stanley, PhD candidate, Medical Anthropology, McMaster University.

For your reference, several of our advocacy materials are posted on our website, including our 2017 [submission](#) to the federal Department of Justice in response to its transforming the criminal justice system initiative.

Kindly note that we intend to post your response on our website for voters to read.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes with your campaign.

Sincerely,

Heather Pope, BA (Hons.), LLB, LLM

Director

Dementia Justice Society of Canada

www.dementiajustice.com