

## **NDP Response: Dementia Justice Canada**

### **How will your party improve the lives of persons with dementia who are in conflict with the criminal justice system?**

As a first step, New Democrats are committed to establishing a funded national dementia strategy that is part of our comprehensive National Seniors Strategy. Canadians who have dementia should have access to the right resources to treat their complex care needs.

This means ensuring that we fix our health labour shortages so that people with complex care needs have enough hands-on care. This is especially necessary in long-term care homes where there is a growing percentage of residents with dementia.

New Democrats recognize the need to address resident-on-resident violence, which has been increasing as more people have complex behavioural issues.

While we are committed to addressing the health labour shortages and improving hands-on care that will hopefully prevent persons with dementia from entering the criminal justice system, we know that there are people already in the system who need protection.

New Democrats have long advocated for reforms to the criminal justice system built on evidence-based policies.

We will work with experts like yourselves, caregivers, and patients with lived experiences to implement our funded national dementia strategy that also includes supporting and preventing persons with dementia who come into the criminal justice system. Part of this work will include reviewing legislation to consider the recommendations your organization has thoughtfully put forward.