



Toll Free 1-888-887-5140

North West Dementia Network

180 Park Ave, Suite 310, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 6J4

Project Need

The North West Dementia Network is network of professionals and organizations associated with dementia services in the region of Thunder Bay. In 1999 the network received one-time funding from the Ministry of Health. Obviously this funding has now ceased. In order to continue to deliver educational services across the district of Thunder Bay individuals and organizations who sit on the network are donating their time.

We serve all clients within the geographical boundary of LHIN #14. LHIN projections for cases of Alzheimer Disease and related dementias (ADRD) for 2009 are 3,161. Our geographical area has a higher percentage of clients with Aboriginal identity, and greater proportions of persons with significant vascular and other risk factors for dementia including diabetes, cardiac and renal issues along with problems of social isolation and significant barriers to receiving or accessing ongoing health care services and assessment. We are also aware that within Aboriginal communities prevalence and incidence of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are not necessarily understood in the same way as in non-Aboriginal populations due to cultural differences.

Our web site at www.dementianetwork.com came in to effect this past year, and continues to be a work in progress. Technical support for the North West Dementia Network website is necessary to provide vital information and support to those who need it most. Our network is looking toward technology to address increasing demands and reach as many potential consumers as possible. Many persons with dementia are house bound and live in the outlying district. We are hopeful that by offering educational podcasts on our website we could provide many more opportunities for clients, family and professional caregivers and other health care providers to receive education and other self-management tools to greater increase comfort and fill educational needs.

It should be noted that when a patient is accessing the network from the security of their own home or library in their community, there is a cost savings and level of privacy provided to the individual. The portability of the technology also increasingly supports life on the move yet eliminates unproductive travel times.

The use of technology to address increasing demands and reach as many potential consumers of dementia services would be realized through podcasts, and in the future e-learning projects. The North West Dementia Network is proposing a set of core podcasts be incorporated to our website. Topic areas will include: public awareness, diagnosis, treatment, driving and dementia, advanced care planning, in-home services, safety, and wandering.

Budget and Timeline

The proposed budget of \$4,000 is per a quote delivered by Mr. Lyle Kirchner (webmaster) to upload 5 podcasts over the coming year. This quote (see attached) allows for the purchase of necessary software as well as editing and reformatting of material to suit delivery format.



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Other expenses for the project, such as equipment rental (if necessary for video presentations) development of material, and evaluation and reporting will be done so at the expense of the Dementia Network. These costs will be covered by the existing funds available for the Dementia Network.

Action:	Responsible Person:	Date:
Notify web server, who will train student in basic video editing skills, purchase the required software	Joy Nieminen and Lyle Kirchner from Nuke Web Design	When approval of grant is received.
Development of approximately 10 podcasts. See list above.	Joy Nieminen and Cindy Backen/ co-chairs of the North West Dementia Network to secure experts for podcast development.	One podcast per month over next year.
Evaluation ,sustainability and web upkeep	Joy Nieminen and Cindy Backen.	Ongoing.

Funding

The North West Dementia Network as already stated is an unincorporated network of organizations who exist with the sole purpose of increasing knowledge and opportunities for education on dementia throughout the district of Thunder Bay. Currently, the network has a small reserve from past funding which is held and managed by the Alzheimer Society of Thunder Bay. The Society has agreed to allow usage of their charitable registration number for the purpose of this application. We have no ongoing funding and we have never received any grants in the past. The funding we currently have is primarily used for web, telephone, and video conferencing services, and travel and mileage expenses for district representatives.

This application is for one time funding for the purchase of necessary equipment. There have been no other applications for funding made. If we are unsuccessful in receiving a grant from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation we will investigate other funding opportunities. However, as the network exists without dedicated staff it is difficult to spend time researching and developing funding opportunities and proposals.