



Working together to link individuals and families affected by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia to a community of learning, services and support as early as possible in the disease process.

### What is *First Link*<sup>®</sup>?

- **Partnering** with physicians, health professionals and community organizations
- **Formal Referral** as soon as a diagnosis is made or at any other time in the dementia journey  
*First Link*<sup>®</sup> will send a confirmation to each referring professional when contact has been made with the individual or family.
- **Proactive outreach** to individuals and families  
For those newly diagnosed, we wait 3 to 4 weeks before calling to allow time to adjust to the diagnosis; others are contacted as soon as possible.
- **Information and connections** to Alzheimer Society programs and services, and referrals to other community and health care services
- **Planned follow up** at 3 months, 6 months, one year, etc., and a bi-monthly *First Link*<sup>®</sup> bulletin to keep informed about education and support programs available throughout the community.

### Who to refer to *First Link*<sup>®</sup>?

- Individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia
- Caregivers
- Family members
- Individuals with a diagnosis of MCI (Mild Cognitive Impairment)

### Why refer?

- It is often difficult for individuals and families to ask for help
- Information and support will help patients and families cope with more confidence
- Planning for the future is critical
- There are community and health care services that families need to know about
- With knowledge and skills, people are able to maintain quality of life while living with dementia



Ministry of  
Health Services

Alzheimer Society  
BRITISH COLUMBIA