

**Title:** A Nova Scotia Interactive Dementia Service Map

**Authors:** Sophie MacDonald, Katie Aubrecht, Marco Redden, Jaqueline Gahagan, Rachel Herron

**Abstract:** Introduction: In Nova Scotia, dementia care is recognized as a growing public health concern; yet, provincial understanding of existing public and voluntary services and supports for community-dwelling people with dementia and their care partners is limited. Objective: In visualizing existing services and supports, the map has practical value as a navigation tool and a tool to assess dementia-friendliness. Methods: The project developed an interactive service map using information collected from an environmental scan – which was developed through internet searches and discussions with key informants – and was organized using conceptual framework informed by sociology of dementia and social geography. Results/Conclusion: The scan process highlighted challenges in locating and accessing information, generated questions about the spatiality of virtual programs, and identified areas for improving services and research directions. For example, notable areas of improvement include providing more stimulating activities and programs that are dementia friendly – including alternative therapies such as music, art, and horticulture, etc., as they tap into individuals’ talents and hobbies, which may remain relatively intact regardless of the degree of dementia. These resources appeared as vital but outside core programming, making them harder to map.

**References:**

- Lu, L.-C., Lan, S.-H., Hsieh, Y.-P., Yen, Y.-Y., Chen, J.-C., & Lan, S.-J. (2019). Horticultural therapy in patients with dementia: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias*®, 35, 153331751988349. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1533317519883498>
- Navigating the path forward for dementia in Canada: The Landmark Study Report #1. Alzheimer Society of Canada. (2022). <https://alzheimer.ca/en/research/reports-dementia/landmark-study-report-1-path-forward>