

# Missing persons with dementia in Canada: a multi-pronged approach to addressing the risks of getting lost

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Nätverkskonferens för NEFP  
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# University of Waterloo Research Team



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**Christine Daum**

## Daughter of missing Saint John, N.B., man arrives from Calgary to aid in search



By **Andrew Cromwell** • Global News

Posted April 15, 2020 6:25 am · Updated April 15, 2020 9:39 am

**Toronto police searching for two missing seniors in west end**



98-year-old man and 83-year-old man both went missing this week

CBC News · Posted: Sep 16, 2020 9:43 AM ET | Last Updated: September 17



**UPDATE: Missing New Brunswick senior found after 2-day search**

**Missing senior, 87, located after Edmonton police ask for public's help**

## West Vancouver Police search for missing senior with dementia

## Search for missing senior underway near Glace Bay cliff, shoreline

## UPDATED: Cape Breton police find body during search for missing senior

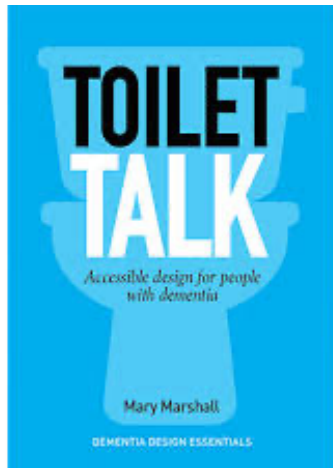
## Two years after Shin Noh disappeared, Coquitlalm family seeks answers

JEREMY DEUTSCH, TRI-CITIES NOW 09.10.2015 |



## Senior missing for 9 days found dead in Delta

# Beyond Health and Social Sciences



## Urban planning and design

**Wayfinding in the smart city**

*Using smart city technology to improve quality of life for patients suffering from (early stage) dementia*



**SAXION** HOGESCHOOL 29-03-2019 Dr. Mark Melenhorst  
*Associate professor of smart cities*

## Technology and smart cities

Abertay University

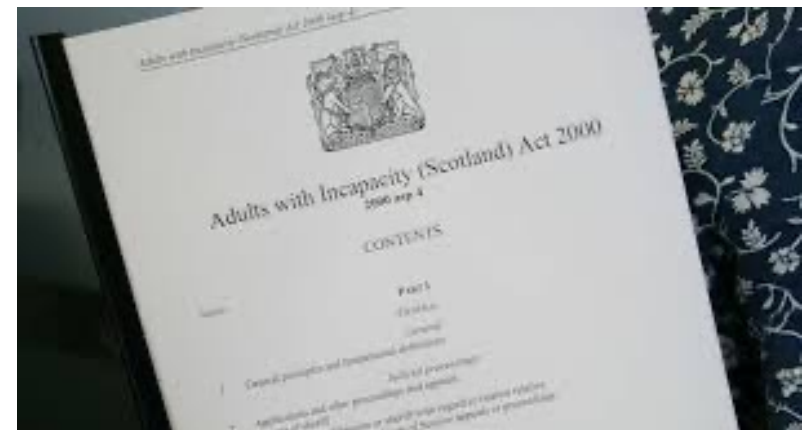


**Missing: Police perspective**

Dr Penny Woolnough  
Registered Forensic Psychologist



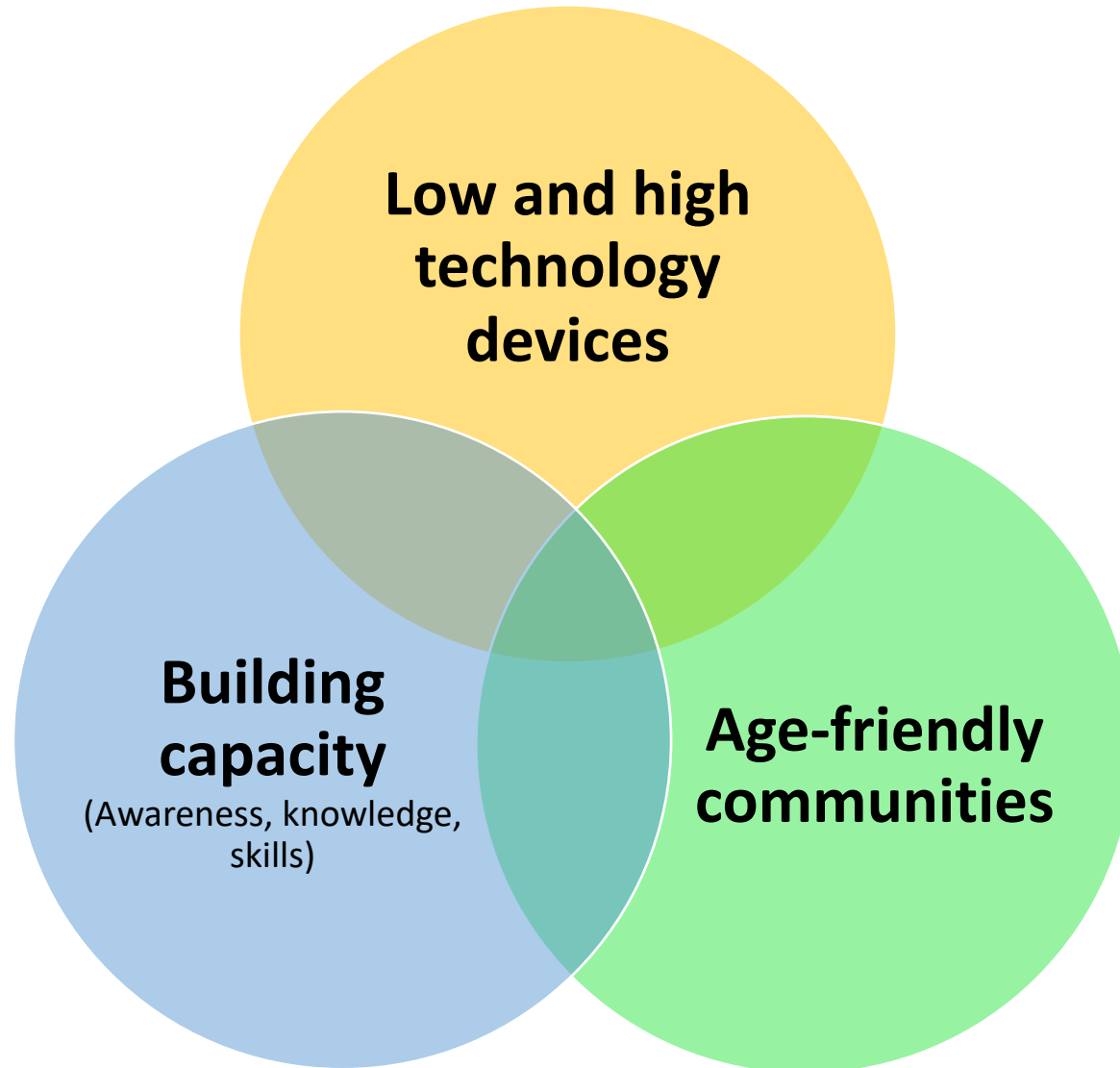
## Police and first response services



## Human rights and legal frameworks



# A multi-pronged approach



# Usability tool for locator devices

## Example of potential items

1. I believe the device meets my individual and changing needs
2. Guidance is available to help me choose the device
3. The device allows two-way communication
4. I trust that my information will only be shared with individuals I choose
5. I believe the device is comfortable (e.g., light, good size)
6. I believe the device is culturally, socially and gender appropriate
7. I believe the device is affordable
8. I believe the device can be easily integrated within my daily lifestyle
9. I believe the device increases my independence and safety
10. I believe/ I plan to use this device frequently



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# Age-friendly communities



E-1588

## PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Whereas:

- There are over 550,000 Canadians living with dementia and this number will double by 2030;
- 60% of people with Alzheimer's will wander at least once during their disease. Wandering is common as the disease progresses;
- Silver Alert is a public notification system to quickly help find seniors who wander because of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- A Silver Alert would provide information to media outlets and activate an emergency alert system through law enforcement agencies; and
- The Provinces of Alberta and Manitoba have established a Silver Alert, through an amendment to their Missing Persons Amendment Act.

We, the undersigned, **citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to develop a National Silver Alert strategy for all Canadian provinces and territories.

## National Post View: Ontario shouldn't have shelved its plan for a 'Silver Advisory' system

*A public alert system would make it possible for more seniors to live at home with their families, rather than in institutions*

## Manitoba MLA to table bill calling for Silver Alert to help find missing seniors

System for seniors modelled off of Amber Alert to find abducted children

Erin Brohman · CBC News · Posted: Mar 02, 2017 5:00 AM CT | Last Updated: March 2, 2017

## U.S. has Silver Alert for missing seniors -- why not Canada?

BY NEWS STAFF

POSTED APR 5, 2016 1:06 PM EDT LAST UPDATED APR 5, 2016 AT 1:13 PM EDT

# Community Alert Systems

C-ASAP

## Missing Person Details



John Doe  
*Johnny*

Reported Missing

Details

Reported missing at:  
8205 114 St NW Edmonton AB

9:47 a.m.

Seen John Doe? Call 911



## ONLINE NATIONAL FORUM

on Alert Systems for  
Vulnerable Older Adults

Coming together to inform "made for  
Canada" approaches to alert systems  
for missing vulnerable older adults.

Thursday, November 26th, 2020, 2:30-5:30PM EST

Visit <https://bit.ly/3owkCk6> for details  
and to register for FREE

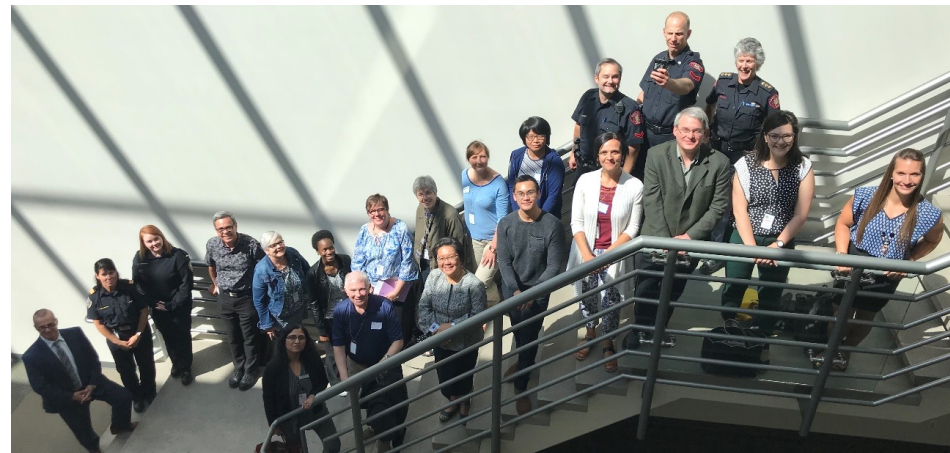
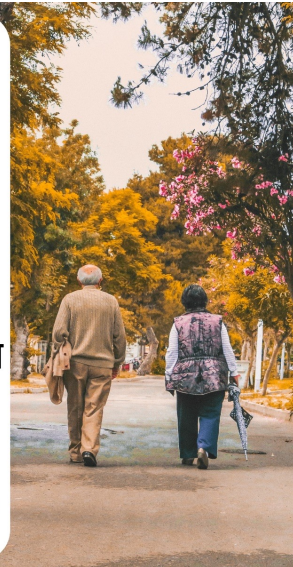


Alzheimer Society  
ONTARIO



Alzheimer Society  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Voices of Local Experience





# Rapid Response Working Group



*Soci  t  Alzheimer Society*  
ONTARIO

[For first responders](#)

[Contact](#)

[Language](#)

English

Text



[LIVING SAFELY WITH DEMENTIA](#)

[BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES](#)

[ONLINE LEARNING](#)

[LOCATING TECHNOLOGY](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

## First Responder Information Centre

Discover materials, information, and resources developed by the Rapid Response Working Group to help first responders effectively conduct searches for missing people living with dementia.

[Dementia Training >](#)

[Communication Tips >](#)

[Search Programs >](#)

**Mitacs**  
Accelerate

*Alzheimer Society*  
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# Return Home Interviews

- An interview with the person or care partner after a missing incident to connect the person with supports to reduce repeat incidents.



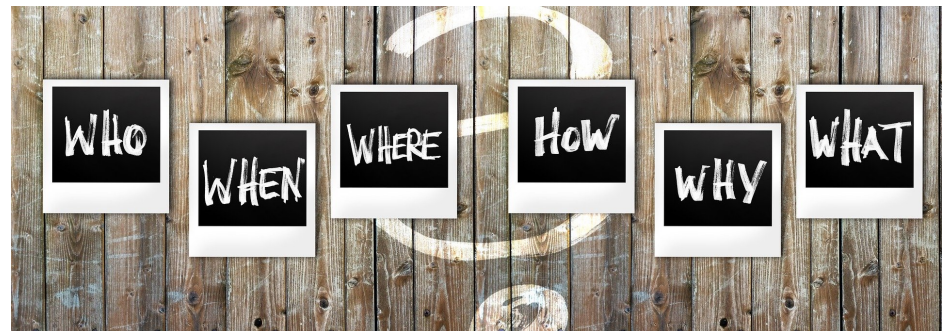
Academic and  
grey literature  
review

Develop  
preliminary  
practice guide

Interviews with  
police and service  
providers

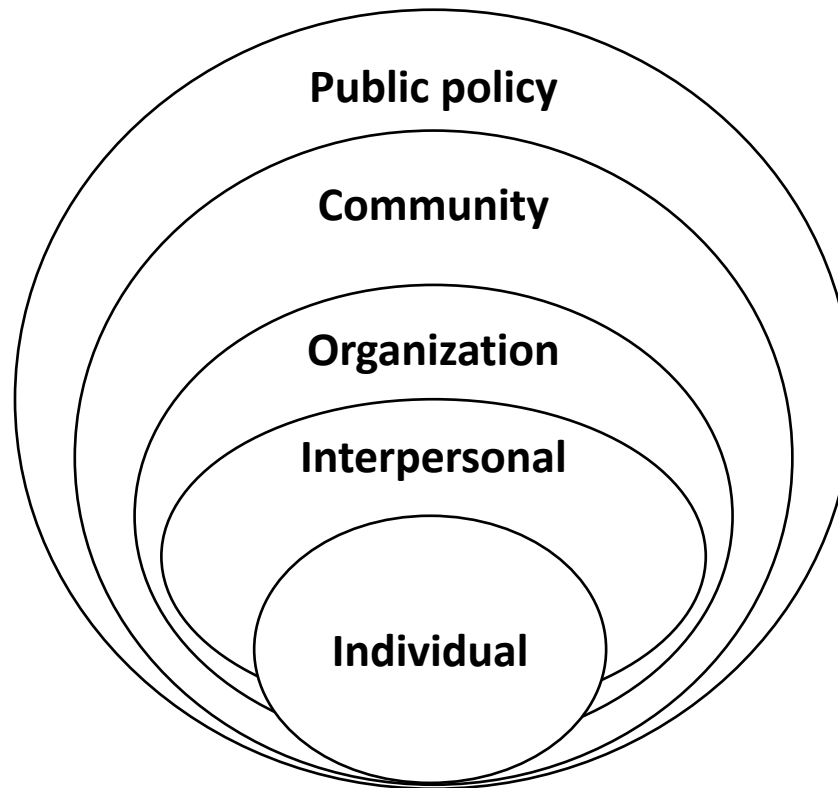
# Collection of data on persons living with dementia who go missing

- What is in a number? “60% of persons living with dementia will wander”
- Need a national strategy for the collection of data on missing incidents involving persons living with dementia
- Phase I: Identify approaches to data collection and describe the foreseeable challenges associated with developing a national strategy



# What have we learned?

- Multiple realities thus multi-faceted approaches involving diverse stakeholders needed





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Aging Gracefully across Environments using Technology  
to Support Wellness, Engagement, and Long Life



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