

Creating Conversations: A Dementia Activity Toolkit to Reduce Social Isolation

Creating Conversations: A Dementia Activity Toolkit to Reduce Social Isolation, Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Stony Plain and Wetaskiwin

CapitalCare Group for Institute for Continuing Care Education (ICCER)

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Creating Conversations Toolkit project will revise (Canadianize) an activity toolkit developed in Scotland for persons with dementia, then pilot and evaluate it in Alberta. The purpose of the toolkit is to reduce social isolation for persons with dementia by providing activities to increase communication between the caregiver and the individual with dementia as well as increase conversation and interaction between persons with dementia. As the toolkit has a gardening theme, we will also be introducing a gardening-based activity to provide a fun, multi-sensory experience that includes physical, cognitive, emotional, and social elements.

Almost all of the Institute for Continuing Care Education & Research (ICCER) current 17 organizational members will be participating as sites, advisory team members, and/or evaluation team members. Participating members include: Bow Valley College, Keyano College, NorQuest College, University of Alberta, Bethany Care Society, CapitalCare, Carewest, Extencicare, Good Samaritan Society, Lifestyle Options, Shepherd's Care Foundation, Silvera for Seniors, St. Michael's Health Group, Wing Kei Nursing Home Association. In addition, we will be joined by our partners in Scotland – the developers of *Creating Conversations* (University of Stirling, ArtLink Central).

