



# Research and Innovation

In Canada, the proportion of older adults (over 65 years of age) will rise from 12% to 25% in 50 years, with 85% of seniors having more than one chronic condition.

This changing demographic will require an adaptation of current care delivery, the integration of research, and creative innovative solutions to improve and transform the current continuing care system. The Brenda Strafford Foundation's (BSF) strategic plan prioritizes research, education and innovation in its main strategic goals. Furthermore, a commitment to innovation and research is represented in the mission, vision, and values with the ultimate goal to advance the quality of life for those we serve.

## Research and Innovation Model



\* Note - although defined as distinct categories, each of the above can overlap or result in further exploration in an additional sub-category.



## Research

Research projects are rigorous and follow a specified research design. They are conducted in collaboration with external research partners and associates.

Six research themes have been identified as areas of focus for research. These themes were developed through engagement with researchers, stakeholders, staff, residents and families.

Enhance Dementia Care

Optimizing Technology, Design and Service Systems

Transitions in Care for Older Adults

Social Engagement

Falls Research

Resident and Family Centered Care and Services



Photo Credit: University of Calgary Brain in Motion research study



## Innovation/Proof of Concept

Innovation/proof of concept projects consist of beta-testing or pilot projects that are managed internally at a smaller scale than research projects. These projects aim to provide evidence that demonstrate a concept is feasible. Some examples include testing various different types of technologies and obtaining end-user feedback from residents, families and staff.

Additionally, we completed a pilot project on Dementia Friendly Communities. The main goal of the pilot project was to leverage best practices from other jurisdictions and empower communities to apply a Dementia Friendly Communities model in the area of Signal Hill Calgary and Okotoks as our two pilot communities. The final deliverable for this pilot project was a Guide Book complete with tools and resources to help other organizations and communities implement dementia friendly strategies creating broader impact beyond the pilot project.

Learn more at: [www.dementiafriendlyalberta.ca](http://www.dementiafriendlyalberta.ca)



The Tovertafel is a projector-based game developed specifically for people living with moderate to severe stages of dementia. BSF was the first organization in North America to access this technology.



## Quality Improvement

Quality improvement initiatives focus on improving quality of care and quality of life outcomes. Continuous quality improvement underpins all aspects of the organization's operations. We exemplify exceptional clinical care, consistently exceeding health service standards. We are dedicated to continually implement projects to enhance the care and services provided to our residents in line with evidence-based, leading best practices.

Some examples of clinically-focused quality improvement initiatives include:

- Enhancing Palliative Care
- Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics
- Decreasing Unnecessary Hospital Transitions



BSF was the first seniors' care provider in Canada to offer Rendevers Virtual Reality system in Assisted Living and Long Term Care.

## The Brenda Strafford Foundation Research Advisory Group

The Brenda Strafford Foundation is fortunate to have an external group of academic researchers advising on how to identify and implement research initiatives that benefit the residents we serve and contribute to advancing knowledge and practice to support the improved health and wellness of seniors. This group is comprised of a network of researchers from disciplines including medicine, nursing, environmental design and kinesiology.

To mobilize our ambitious research and innovation agenda and to ensure a sustained integration of research and innovation into practice we have networked with key stakeholders across Canada and beyond.

## Future Directions and Priorities

- Implement the 'Continuing Care Unit of the Future' which involves creating a dedicated space within a continuing care environment conducive to enhancing care processes and services and identifying areas and opportunities for improvement. The vision involves fostering an environment where researchers and innovators can test and trial new ideas, prototypes, technology, products, processes and care delivery models.
- Implement additional research initiatives at The Brenda Strafford Foundation sites aligned with our six primary Research Themes.
- Develop and implement a long-term research plan within The Brenda Strafford Foundation which will outline research and industry priorities and strategies to align with key stakeholder groups.
- Disseminate information and lessons learned from initiatives and projects with all interested stakeholders.
- Continue to build research and innovation capacity, including implementation of proof of concept and additional quality improvement initiatives to enhance quality of care and safety provided to residents.
- Further develop an "Integrated Continuing Care in the Community" service model which includes implementation of initiatives to support individuals living in the community for as long as possible and bridge transitions across the continuum of care (i.e. Dementia Friendly Communities Initiative, Elder Friendly Communities Initiative).

## Contact Us

If you are interested in collaborating with us or to inquire about Research and Innovation projects, please contact us.

[theBSF.ca](http://theBSF.ca)

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## Industry Leading Achievements and Recognition

Alberta Continuing Care Association 'Innovator of the Year' 2020 and 2018

Accreditation Canada 'Accredited with Exemplary Status' 2018

Health Standards Organization 'Leading Practice' for Palliative Care 2018

Health Quality Council of Alberta 'Patient Experience Award' for Palliative Care 2018

