



November 23rd, 2016

Dear Google:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Ontario Dementia Advisory Group (ODAG), to share our support for your proposed Google.org Impact Challenge **Dementia.Community** project being developed by Hackernest.

ODAG is a group of Ontarians living with dementia. Our mandate is to influence policies, practices and people to ensure that we, people living with dementia, are included in making decisions that affect our lives. In addition, we firmly believe all persons with dementia need to be able to influence as this is the only way that we will create a system that is responsive to the needs and desires of people with dementia. Furthermore, this is in accordance to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), an international treaty, Article 3 specifically references the right for participation, inclusion and opportunity on an equal basis of non-disabled people.

ODAG prides itself on our innovative usage of technologies to help in enabling the inclusion of people living anywhere in Ontario. Using Zoom Technologies we host meetings for our members, partners and guests. The ability to not only hear but also to see people makes an incredible difference for people with dementia to actively participate. It is easier for us to follow the conversation, stay focused, provide feedback, enjoy socialization, etc.

The goal of enabling people with dementia to live in the community for as long as possible is an extremely important one. To enable us to do so, requires easily accessible information about services; research projects; online-communities; best-practices; and a jumping off point to data that can help with living well with dementia. This is currently a huge gap in services and it is much needed.

The **Dementia.Community** project is a much needed solution for the dementia community. The developers are working directly with those having dementia to ensure our requirements are being met. Currently, when a person is diagnosed with dementia, there is lack of information and the feeling of community. This project can meet this need.

ODAG is considered to be a leader in the international world of advocacy. We have provided witness for the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology for its study on dementia in Canadian society. Also, we are a member of a Task Force submitting a Memorandum to the UN CRPD as it relates to "Concluding Observations" report from the UN to Canada.

We are delighted to share our experience and expertise as leaders in dementia with the project team. To that, we will support it by:

- providing people with dementia to use the product;

ODAG

- test for dementia friendliness;
- suggest new requirements; and
- confirm that it is truly needed.

This proposed project will surely have a substantial impact on improving the quality of life of people with dementia. We welcome the opportunity to be a part of it.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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