



January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Ontario Dementia Advisory Group (ODAG). The reason for this letter is to ask for your support by donating previously owned tablets.

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.

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.

It 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. We help in the facilitation of active participation in politics and cross-sector projects.

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. This type of engagement truly is able to change the socialization for a person living with dementia.

To help meet this goal requires more people with dementia to have easy access to tablets so they may use Zoom technology to join an internet community of their peers. For many of us, owning a tablet is out of our reach; The financial strain of having this disease is devastating in many cases.

The only requirement for a tablet is that it is in good working order and internet ready. That's it! ODAG will help in the facilitation of training if it is required.

Please join us in helping people with dementia to stay connected and participate as full citizens.

**ODAG**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Wighton".

Mary Beth Wighton  
Chair  
Ontario Dementia Advisory Group (ODAG)  
mbwighton@hotmail.ca  
[www.odag.ca](http://www.odag.ca)

**ODAG**