



For Immediate Release

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Canadian Frailty Network invests in Canadian-made, innovative approach to dementia care

(Kingston, Ontario) – As our population ages frailty, in all its forms, challenges the Canadian care system to support 1.5 million older adults living with frailty and their family caregivers. Coordinated, compassionate, local care is critically important to those living with dementia and their caregivers. The Canadian Frailty Network (CFN) has invested in a proven and innovative approach to dementia care, [MINT Memory Clinics](#).

Recognizing the gaps in care for people living with memory difficulties, including dementia, Dr. Linda Lee created MINT (Multispecialty, Interprofessional, Team-based) Memory Clinics. The MINT approach to dementia care integrates primary care, specialist care and community agencies to deliver timely access to care that's close to home, often within a family doctor's office. The cornerstone of the MINT Memory Clinic model is the standardized, nationally accredited dementia care training for interprofessional primary care teams, including physicians, nurses and others. This is the only training of its kind in Canada. MINT Memory Clinic services are fully covered by provincial health care programs and there is no additional cost for Canadians to receive these services.

MINT Memory Clinics build capacity in primary care and reduce wait times to access dementia care by 50%. With MINT Memory Clinics, 90% of persons living with dementia can access all their healthcare needs within their own communities. MINT Memory Clinics also build strong partnerships with specialists using virtual technologies to enable high-quality care within one location. By providing earlier access to assessment and ongoing, team-based care, MINT Clinics help to reduce hospitalizations and delay the need for long-term care, enabling persons living with dementia to stay in their own homes longer. "We fulfill our mandate of improving care for older adults living with frailty and supporting their caregivers by not only funding frailty research, but scalable innovations such as MINT Memory Clinics," says Dr. John Muscedere, Scientific Director & CEO of CFN. "With more than 110 clinics and a very high adoption rate, this innovation is set to make a major impact in the field of dementia care. Most older adults have identified aging in place as a priority for them. Dementia care delivered in the community that reduces the number of emergency room visits, not only improves quality of life for older adults and reduces caregiver stress, but reduces rising hospitalization costs in this population and allows older adults to stay in their homes longer."

"MINT Memory Clinics are successfully addressing the gap in care for older adults living with dementia and frailty by providing faster access to coordinated care that's located within their own community," says Dr. Linda Lee, a Care of the Elderly family physician and founder of the innovative MINT Memory

Clinic model of care. "Now, in partnership with Canadian Frailty Network, we are excited to bring this model of care to more communities across Canada and improve access to care and supports for older adults when and where they need them."

In Canada today, one in every four Canadians between the ages of 65-84 years is considered medically frail (1.5 million older adults), and by age 85 that number increases to one in two. As Canada's only research network singularly focused on frailty in older adults, CFN's mission is to improve care for older Canadians living with frailty and their caregivers through research, knowledge translation, training of the next generation of health care providers and public health initiatives such as the [AVOID Frailty-Take Control](#) program.

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About the Canadian Frailty Network

Canadian Frailty Network (CFN) is Canada's sole network devoted to improving care for older Canadians living with frailty and supporting their families and caregivers. We do this by increasing frailty recognition and assessment, increasing evidence for decision-making from the bedside to the policy making level, advancing evidence-based changes to care, training the next generation of care professionals and scientists, and engaging with older adults and caregivers. CFN is funded by the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence program. For more information, please visit www.cfn-nce.ca, or follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).