

COMMUNITY ALERT SYSTEMS FOR MISSING OLDER ADULTS: POLICY TO IMPLEMENTATION

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AGING AND INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM



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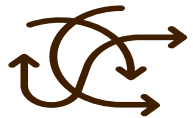


Christine Daum

BACKGROUND: RISK OF GOING MISSING



60% of people with dementia wander¹



70% will go missing at least once²



50% will be injured or deceased if not found within 24 hours³



US\$1500/hour = cost of locating a missing person⁴

PUSH FOR A SILVER ALERT IN CANADA

U.S. has Silver Alert for missing seniors -- why not Canada?

BY NEWS STAFF

POSTED APR 5, 2016 1:06 PM EDT LAST UPDATED APR 5, 2016 AT 1:13 PM EDT

E-1588 PETITION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA⁵

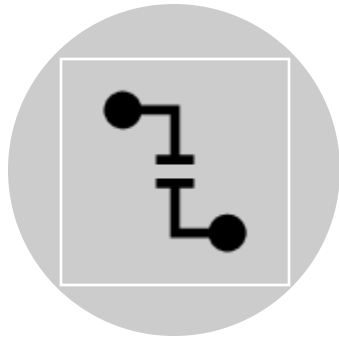
Whereas:

- There are over 550,000 Canadians living with dementia and this number will double by 2030;
- 60% of people with Alzheimer's will wander at least once during their disease. Wandering is common as the disease progresses;
- Silver Alert is a public notification system to quickly help find seniors who wander because of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- A Silver Alert would provide information to media outlets and activate an emergency alert system through law enforcement agencies; and
- The Provinces of Alberta and Manitoba have established a Silver Alert, through an amendment to their Missing Persons Amendment Act.

We, the undersigned, **citizens of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to develop a National Silver Alert strategy for all Canadian provinces and territories.



WHAT ARE THE GAPS?

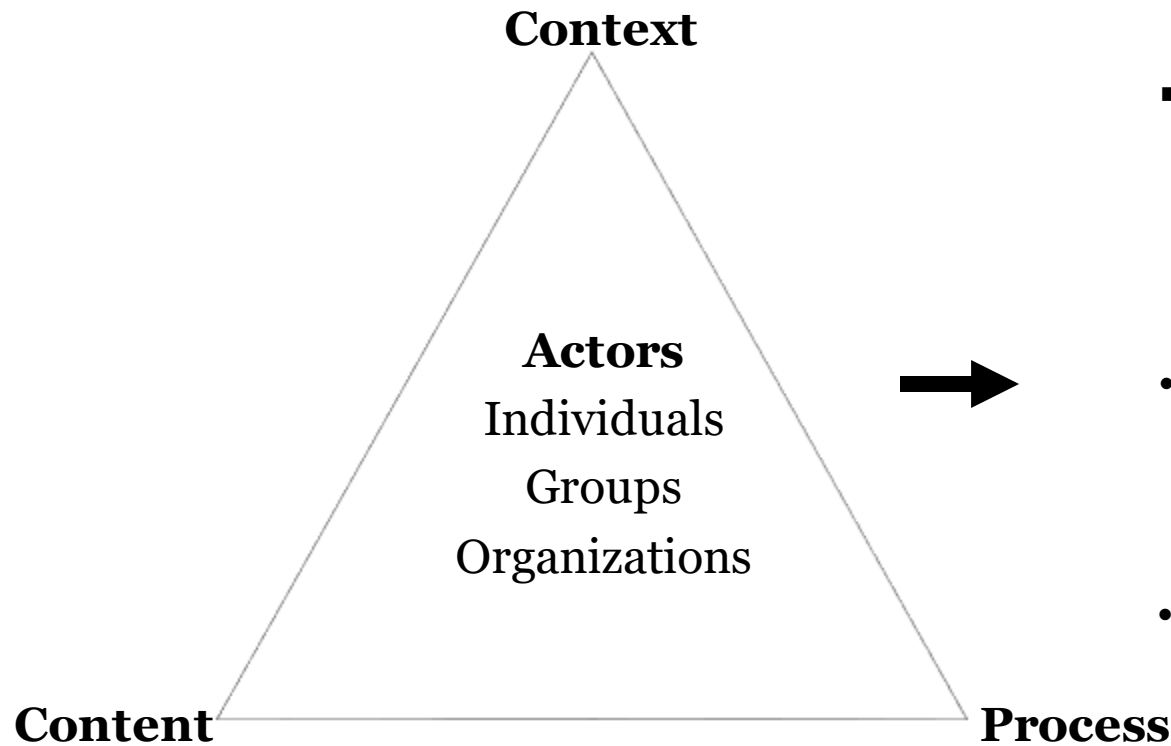


Lack of association between policy and programs for alert systems in Canada⁶



BC has a citizen-led Silver Alert program (BC Silver Alert) but no provincial act⁷

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: POLICY TRIANGLE



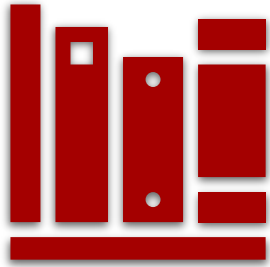
- Social, economic, political, cultural, environmental conditions, and historical experience
- How policies are developed, negotiated, communicated, implemented, and evaluated
- Policy objectives, legislation, regulations, guidelines

OBJECTIVES



- To examine the process of policy development at local, municipal, and provincial sectors in the context of community alert systems for older adults in Canada
- Specific objectives:
 - 1) To explore and understand the factors (context, content, actors, and processes) influencing the implementation of community alert systems at local, municipal, and provincial sectors
 - 2) To explore the challenges in the implementation of community alert systems at local, municipal, and provincial sectors in Canada and ways to enhance community alert systems in Canada

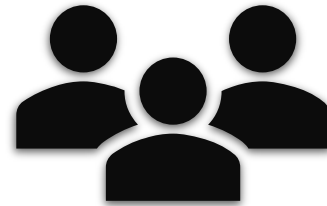
METHODS: MULTIMETHOD (QUALITATIVE)



Case Study: BC Silver Alert⁹



Document Review (policies, guidelines, memoranda, project reports and newsletters)



Community-based Research¹⁰



Interviews and Focus Groups with 10 stakeholders (actors/ implementers of BC Silver Alert)

DATA ANALYSIS: THEMATIC ANALYSIS

- Identify key themes within data¹¹

1

Factors (context, content, actors, and process) that influenced the implementation of BC Silver Alert

2

Challenges in implementing BC Silver alert

3

Ways to enhance BC Silver Alert



CONTRIBUTION



A better understanding of the association between policy and programs for alert systems in Canada



Findings will inform policy on alert systems in Canada



Support for aging in place and safety of older adults



The study will serve as a precursor to future studies

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Enhancing Life

