

Canadian and international researchers to accelerate research efforts through a strategic and collaborative effort. The CIHR has committed \$7.57 million, with an additional \$11.22 million in international partner funding. Additional information may be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/42288.html>.

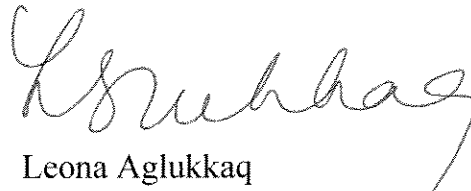
A key CIHR initiative is the Cognitive Impairment in Aging Partnership, with investments of \$32 million to date, which links researchers and key stakeholders to advance strategic research and knowledge translation on cognitive impairment and dementia. As well, the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, which began in 2008 and is expected to run for at least 20 years, will provide valuable information on dementia and Alzheimer's disease from mid-life to old age. This study is the result of a collaboration with Statistics Canada, through the support of a \$23.5 million research grant from the CIHR (along with a \$10 million infrastructure grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and matched by \$15 million from the provinces and other partners).

In June 2009, I announced funding of \$15 million over four years to support a National Population Health Study of Neurological Conditions. This commitment directly responded to a request by Neurological Health Charities Canada, which includes the Alzheimer Society, indicating the need to improve our knowledge of the extent and impact of neurological diseases in Canada. The results of this study will give stakeholders and governments reliable information on which to base policy and program decisions. Filling gaps in knowledge was the first priority for these health charities, and the federal government responded to their request.

I am confident that Canadian research is building our foundation of knowledge toward more effective treatment and ultimately a cure.

I appreciate having had your concerns brought to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

Leona Aglukkaq

c.c. Office of the Prime Minister