



THE AGE BLOG



“You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.”

The quote above is by C.S. Lewis, British philosopher, theologian, professor and author, probably best known for his children’s book series, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. I thought it an apt quote for a new year. Just like individuals, organizations — particularly those of us in the not-for-profit sector — have dreams. AGE’s dream (our mission) is to enhance the care of older adults by learning together. One of things we’ve learned through research and our work with older adults living with dementia is that they are still able to participate in the world around them. Like all of us, they have hopes and dreams. Helping them fulfill dreams or set goals (no matter how small) must begin with a special understanding of the unique human being behind the disease.

As an educator in dementia care, our goal is to give all Canadian front-line healthcare providers the skills, knowledge and training to better understand the needs of the older adults in their care, in part so that they can help unlock those dreams. The initiatives that AGE has set out for next year will help pave our path to success.

The past year has been busy and exciting. We've seen the spread of our education curriculum, Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA®) in Dementia Care, coast to coast, with new partnerships in Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia; the launch of GPA (ADP) to the francophone market; and new AGE research initiatives, including presenting at a number of national and international conferences, all of which have helped spread the word about GPA and its unique person-centred approach to dementia care.

As we move into the final quarter of our 2017 – 2018 fiscal year, we will be preparing our Annual Operational Plan, the final leg of a 3-year strategic plan. Planning is underway for a number of new AGE products and services. Watch for them in 2018:

- ✓ New! GPA Bursary Awards Program.
- ✓ Year 2 of the GPA Leadership Excellence in Person-Centred Care awards.
- ✓ We encourage all organizations to submit an application. Don't miss the profiles of those who received the award in 2016, they're on our website.
- ✓ New! GPA eLearning Parts 1 & 2, which will meet the equivalency to the GPA Basics Education program.
- ✓ New! GPA Therapeutic Bathing Program.
- ✓ New! GPA Certified Coach tools, including the Individualized Behavioural Escalation Prevention Plan (IBEPP) currently being trialed.
- ✓ Planning for innovations to enhance GPA sustainability for organizations.
- ✓ Initial planning for GPA Basics 4th edition, launching in 2019.

Thought for 2018

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

— St. Francis of Assisi

In closing, from the entire team at AGE I wish you and your families a very Happy Holidays. May 2018 be a year of dreaming dreams and implementing the goals to reach them.



Patti Boucher, AGE Executive Director



AGE

**Advanced Gerontological
Education**



**Approches
Douces et
Persuatives**

Enhancing the care of older adults by learning together

About Advanced Gerontological Education (AGE) Inc.

AGE is a national non-funded not-for-profit social enterprise committed to enhancing the care of older adults through dementia education products and services, with profits reinvested to further advance our social mission. Our main product is Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA®), an education curriculum in English and French that equips front-line healthcare providers with the knowledge, skills and training to apply a respectful, person-centred care approach when interacting with older adults with dementia. It's an approach that also ensures a care provider's own safety and well-being. To date, AGE has provided GPA training to more than 288,000 healthcare providers and students in 1,700 organizations across Canada.

www.ageinc.ca