404 Journal of Family Nursing

**Figure 1 Example of Genogram**

Date: *Composite*

Code:*Composite*

**TIMELINE:**

2000 First signs of dementia

2002 Dx of Alzheimer disease

2004 Sept.

CR started in Day program

2005 January

CR fell; broke ankle

2005 March

CR placed in long term care facility

Died of cancer

m.1950

CG

CR

76 y.o.

73 y.o.

80 y.o. Alzheimer’s

Retired teacher Retired bank teller

Died of cancer

m. 1953

Healthy

Healthy

73 y.o.

Hypertension

Retired teacher

83 y.o.

Lives in care facility

Alzheimer disease

Lives in care facility

**Live locally**

**Live locally**

m. 1984

d. 2004

50 y.o.

Hx of hypertension

Teacher

52 y.o.

Her mom had Alzheimer disease

Postal worker

46 y.o.

51 y.o. “Caring father”

44 y.o.

Security guard

“A bit of a drinker”

Depression;

“Family man”

Unemployed Was a LPN

20 y.o.

**Legend**:

CG CR

m.

•

caregiver

Nursing student “Go-getter”

1980 25 y.o.

1982 23 y.o.

care recipient married

Both girls are in university

divorced

**Live locally**

**Lives locally**

**Live out-of-province**

living arrangement

past living arrangement

predominant application is in family therapy and clinical family nursing. We argue for their increased utilization as a data generation method based on our experience of their contribution in a study of male family caregivers’ experiences of supportive and nonsupportive interactions.

The purpose of this article is to consider the use of genograms and ecomaps as heuristic tools in family caregiving research through examples

**Authors’ Note:** Funding for this research and the first author’s postdoctoral fellowship in family caregiving and qualitative methods was awarded to the two co-authors by the Alzheimer Society of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research–Institute of Gender and Health and Institute of Aging, Canadian Nurses Foundation, Nursing Care Partnership of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. An earlier version of this article was presented as a Round Table at the National Council on Family Relations 68th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN, in 2006. Address all correspondence to Gwen R. Rempel, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta, 3rd Floor Clinical Sciences Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2G3; e-mail: gwen.rempel@ualberta.ca.

Downloaded from [jfn.sagepub.com](http://jfn.sagepub.com/) at University of Haifa Library on November 15, 2010