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**Title**

Implement a National Seniors Strategy

**Key message**

Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, participation and security to ensure all Canadians can age with dignity and support a strong economy across the generations.

**What is the issue?**

Older Canadians are the fastest growing segment of our population, yet policy gaps, the lack of stable retirement security and focused health care system creates barriers to seniors’ independence and the essential role they play in vibrant, healthy communities and economies.

Tackling these issues independently will not see the results we need. A coordinated plan, dedicated funding and accountable goals under a National Seniors Strategy will ensure we meet the evolving needs of seniors and that all Canadians can age with dignity.

**Some challenges**

**Independent, productive, engaged citizens**

* Social isolation and a lack of age-friendly strategies contributes to poor health outcomes, higher social costs and loss of vital economic and social contributions of older populations.

**Healthy and active for as long as possible**

* Canadians are living longer, and our health care system not keeping up with shifting demographics
* The right care, at the right time, in the right place, at all stages of aging requires stable funding for a quality, accessible health care system that helps address the social determinants of health.

**Care closer to home**

* Shortfalls in long-term and home care force seniors to stay in hospitals longer than they need.
* Standards of care are inconsistent across the country and with 1 geriatrician per 15,000 adults, Canada is unprepared to meet the growing demand for geriatric expertise.

**Support for Caregivers**

* Caregivers contribute billions in unpaid labour to our health system, at a cost to their finances, physical and mental health.

**More information**

National Seniors Strategy for Canadians: <http://nationalseniorsstrategy.ca/>

Canadian Medical Association: <https://www.demandaplan.ca/>

**Questions**

1. Will your party implement a National Seniors Strategy that addresses infrastructure for care; caregiver support; home care and age-friendly communities?
2. How will your party ensure quality home, community and long-term care options are available to meet the needs of our aging population when they need them?
3. How will your party support unpaid caregivers who play a vital role in our health care systems?
4. How will party support health and social care professionals to better meet the growing need for geriatric expertise in Canada?