



IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL SENIORS STRATEGY



KEY MESSAGE

Canada needs a National Seniors Strategy that optimizes health, financial security and social inclusion so all Canadians can age with dignity.

THE ISSUE

Older Canadians are the fastest growing segment of our population, but gaps in Canada's healthcare and social policies are creating barriers to seniors' independence and the essential role they play in vibrant, healthy communities and economies.

Tackling these issues independently will not give us the results we need. A coordinated National Seniors Strategy, with dedicated funding and accountable goals will ensure we meet the evolving needs of seniors.

THE CHALLENGES

Staying healthy and active for as long as possible

- Canadians are living longer, and our health care system is 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. We need a quality, accessible health care system that helps address the social determinants of health.

Quality of Care

- Standards of care are inconsistent across the country. Many Canadians do not have access to a primary care giver and with one geriatrician per 15,000 adults, Canada is unprepared to meet the current and growing demands for geriatric expertise.
- The need for community care workers and personal support workers is growing. Adequate staffing levels, better training and education and safe working conditions are needed to improve care.

Care closer to home

- Shortfalls in long-term and home care force seniors to stay in hospitals longer than they need. A national strategy should encourage the integration of hospital, community and home care services to enable seniors to receive care in comfortable and familiar settings.

Support for Caregivers

- More than 8 million Canadians provide care to a family member or friend, contributing an estimated \$25-billion in unpaid labour. This comes at a cost to their personal finances, and to their physical and mental health.

Independent, productive, engaged citizens

- Social isolation, elder abuse and a lack of age-friendly strategies can deteriorate quality of life, and lead to poor health outcomes, higher social costs and loss of vital economic and social contributions of older populations.

THE QUESTIONS

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

MORE INFORMATION

National Seniors Strategy for Canadians: nationalseniorsstrategy.ca