

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2017 FEDERAL BUDGET

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNITY CARE SOLUTIONS

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Federal measures that would help Canadians generally and in the area of unemployed, seniors and folks with disabilities and indigenous people.

Seniors: The ageing baby boomers; those born from 1946 to 1965 and are currently in the age range from 50 to 69.

The results of the greying of Canada's demography has serious implications for the national economy, government policy, and the well-being of Canadian citizens due to eroding wealth, poor economic growth, and shrinking per capita incomes, could be overcome with a **National Care Giving and Home Care Initiative** for Seniors and a Disabled Independence Program, modelled on the Veterans' Independence Program administered by Veterans' Affairs Canada.

Labour stagnation will keep growth below 2% annually. The expectation of 250,000 immigrants yearly should help double the country's growth. I believe that a large portion of the growth of the economy is in affordable senior housing and care and that building a National Infrastructure for Care and Housing stimulates an economy as much or more than bridges and roads.

The new retirees in Canada has jumped from 170,000 in 2010 to 250,000 today, and retirement rates are expected to reach 400,000 a year. Required are jobs caring for seniors. A National Plan for Care of Canadians, and standards that link with international standards for immigrants coming into Canada, is required.

Caregiving is not just a family concern but is an extended care network for busy lifestyles of today's families. Seniors are identified as the primary care receivers that require assistance for a range of different health reasons, and because they are becoming frailer as they age, and subject to debilitating disease, chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, thyroid and dementia. Caregivers work in homes for the aged, long term care, private institutions, and palliative care.

Caregivers need to be professionally trained with social work, nursing and homemaking skills. They are not standardized in training and job skills throughout Canada and Internationally.

Within institutions and community home care, under agencies managed by government, the Caregiver is the least paid, with sometimes as low as the minimum wage, to supply services for the elderly, such as personal care that requires skill and the ability to bathe, clean, and diaper the aged and infirm. There is so much waste in management of these workers, with managers that are being paid \$60 an hour while the deliverers of service are getting from \$12.00 to \$18.00 an hour. The consumer is not allowed to hire for their needs, or report poor service to the government agencies due to threats of losing the little service they now have.

Economic Benefits of a National Plan for INTEGRATED CARE and HOUSING FOR SENIORS

- Encourages small enterprise towards the delivery of home support services.
- Funds that are transferred to provinces, and top down lose 80% of each dollar in wasteful management of the dollar, with only 20% going to the consumer for the purchase of services in home care that keeps the consumer out of expensive institutional care.
- Business financing, standards of care, and licensing to each individual in business of care allows small businesses to contribute to Canada's economic growth through NON-GOVERNMENT RUN CARE AGENCIES.
- Canadians in general, within workplace training and education, require labour mobility with their skills, and knowledge of caregiving. Currently, we have in Canada each province with its own demands and requirements of knowledge and skills to deliver front line health care.
- Front line health care workers are the least paid in the delivery of services in Ontario and other provinces. The folks that are managing front line care are making three times the fees of the person in the delivery of service.
- HEALTH PROMOTION efforts may be done with families by improving nutrition and enabling people to increase control over their own health and care requirements.
- The federal government needs to provide direct funding based on the number of the older population needing increased health and home care.
- Integrated care for seniors, with a decent fee for services paid through the consumer to the Certified Caregiver/PSW would enable the small business the ability to afford to pay taxes and give employment to Canadians that are Certified with Standard Hours of training and ongoing workplace training.

ACTIVE AGEING IN AGE FRIENDLY CITIES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Older adults make valuable contributions to society through knowledge and business accumulated over a lifetime of experience. A society for all ages promotes the well-being and contributions of older people in all aspects of life, and reflects the goals of elimination of ageism. Accelerated ageing is the direct result of inactivity. Promoting infrastructure of small communities in hamlets across Canada, with start-up funding for Community Centres attached to the small housing plans, would benefit Canadians, encourage business start-ups to those who are unemployed because of loss of industry, to working poor in small businesses, to indigenous peoples, and to people with a disability, and thereby provide economic growth.

A national plan for housing that is more than a room or a house, but a small community with social support networks established.

- Canadians in general need health and wellness programs, smaller housing and infrastructure such as a community centres and not coffee and donut shops. Healthy areas for people to gather enjoy socializing. These are community centres promoting music, health and wellness

clinics, grocery shopping and meal preparation, and promotion of business and workplace education and training.

- Federal actions could encourage small business enterprise development with younger and older adults doing micro enterprises.
- Opportunities and lifelong learning for seniors. There should be tax credits for all seniors taking courses in the community, from the private and public sector, and/or volunteer of their time.
- Canada's businesses in all regions and sectors could provide expansion, innovation, and economic growth in international trade and investment of Caregiving if they had better access to business finances.
- Hamlets in Urban, Rural and remote communities could be funded with financial support for Age Friendly Housing and Community Development.
- Supportive housing for seniors by dropping the HST on all new housing projects for seniors that are 1000 sq. ft. and under. Many seniors are living in homes that need renovation but the costs of renovation far exceed the funds available to the senior.
- Government investing in micro-communities. Developers make more money on the bigger the house and institutional builds. If our National government would set the standards and promote the growth of small community developments, as in the manner they did after WW11 when veterans housing with small compact houses were created. These homes should be for all Canadians that want to live more economically and share resources.

Building projects in rural and remote communities that promote active ageing bring economic growth and business to the rural community.

Broadband is an important aspect of this, but we need community centres that help to direct services and provide information for seniors. A Drop-In Community Centre, attached to a community cluster of homes, would offer a solution with a drop-in centre, for not only the development, but for others wishing to use facilities of health and wellness. The space serves as a meeting place, public forum on health, education, finances, and event venue for entrepreneurial and enterprise development.

There is a large group of self-employed seniors, and women without pensions, and the government should encourage income streams for seniors, property tax deferrals and reductions to be encouraged to move into smaller group housing. The group of seniors that have been self-employed and contributing to the economy are considered the working poor.

Building an infrastructure of these homes in small rural communities would contribute to the economy of Canada. Moving Canadians out of large homes and institutions of care, with the development of small communities with infrastructure, would create jobs for the youth employed in caring for, learning from, and working with the elderly. International trade, in the area of Caregiving, could be of immense value to other countries and Canada. Know how that could be exported. The area of human trafficking in the Federal Live-In Caregiver Program, and the exploitation of workers, is largely due to inattention to this area of need in our social system of care for seniors, causing a void to be filled with unscrupulous traders of human assets around the world. Canada has a role to play in setting both National and International Standards of Care in the treatment of our senior populace, that will provide jobs and

economic growth for our Country, while providing communities with infrastructure and helping them to adapt to domestic and international customers in building our country.

Powers, that are different from the provincial governments, should include a national and international scope or direction that affects all Canadians, Business and Communities. The federal level of government should deal with areas of law that generally affect the whole country. Of grave concern is how we care for the aged population, and how we house this population, as well as how we pay employment for all Canadians performing front line care of our elderly, disabled and infirm. We have national powers for regulation of trade and commerce, interprovincial and international trade, and nationwide systems of hospital insurance and medical care. Canada needs to consider a National Plan of Care and Housing that all provinces need to consider . The powers of the National Government to set financial budgets, based on emergency powers and national crisis, is a minimal role that needs to be reviewed towards leadership and setting of national and international standards that represent the heart of every community in every province in Canada. If a province is not delivering to an expected standard, then the province cannot expect to have funds transferred, and the average senior that has paid taxes, Employment Insurance and Pension Plans into their old age is being punished as the result of mismanagement of the province they live in. If the funds went directly to the individual, they would have control over the funding and the amount of service they could afford to purchase for their care.

If each small community, through creative collaboration, could offer educational classroom, event venues, and address entrepreneurship with young and older folks, working in micro centres with banks (Central Mortgage and Housing) that are also in tune with new types of housing developments, with communities built, we could easily change the direction of social isolation of seniors, lack of direction for youth, and institute new creative employment opportunities. This begins with a vision for Canada as a country of CARE for their own citizens and a vision towards a healthy population and care system.