

Report- National Seniors' Strategy

This report follows the town hall hosted in Orléans on August 24th 2017 on M-106. Residents shared their thoughts and views on how best to create and implement a National Seniors' Strategy, being studied by the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA).

- 1. Improving access to housing for seniors (aging in place and affordable and accessible housing)**
 - Improve access to palliative care and increase resources to enable individuals to receive the care they need while remaining at home as long as possible, thus decreasing the costs associated with hospital stays.

- 2. Improving the income security for vulnerable seniors**
 - Most participants were satisfied with the decision to return the age of OAS eligibility to 65 years of age. Some weren't sure that this decision was fiscally responsible.

- 3. Improving the overall quality of life and well-being for seniors including community programming, social inclusivity and social determinants of health**
 - Prevent the duplication of services and ensure proper collaboration between all levels of government and community resources already in place.

 - Ottawa is lucky to have great community services and institutions. It is important to implement a strategy that invests in and supports the services that are already in the community.

 - Provide more ease in navigating the health care system and assist individuals in determining which level of government offers which services and which resources are available in the community.

 - Many participants indicated the need to provide increased support to individuals of the "sandwich generation", who are taking care of both aging parents and their own children. The system should be as helpful to those taking care of their parents as to those who are looking after their spouses.

 - Regarding Medical Assistance in Dying, use the opportunity of the mandatory review contained within the legislation to see how increases in access can be facilitated.

 - Wait times for long term care are too long and care services offered are not always adequate from staff. It is important for the government to help facilitate and encourage employees to keep their skills current with ongoing training.

- It is important to increase care to seniors but we also need to be realistic and take into consideration the budget cuts already present in hospitals and to help find efficiencies where possible.

4. Local issues

- Consider having a federal Minister of Seniors.
- Ministries of Education and Cooperative Education Department in the provinces should be encouraged to set up Co-op opportunities for High School students to both shadow and actively work with a Personal Support Worker (PSW) or a Home Care Nurse. This could give a co-op credit for the student and the chance that s/he might choose this as a profession, which based on projections, will be in high demand.
- Consider implementing a national pharma care system.

* These comments may or may not reflect the MP's personal views, but is a summary of the opinions and views shared at the town hall.