

## **AGING IN THE RIGHT PLACE – A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH**

**WHEREAS** COVID-19 has demonstrated the extreme vulnerability of older adults in institutional care;

**WHEREAS** 80% of older adults wish to stay at home as they age;

**WHEREAS** less than 5% of older adults need 24/7 institutional care;

**WHEREAS** lack of community-care options causes financial stress; harms older adults; and drastically increases pressure/costs in ERs/hospitals/Long Term Care;

**WHEREAS** the scarcity of quality support care workers (in crisis before the pandemic) risks lives;

**WHEREAS** multidisciplinary teams can deliver cost-effective, comprehensive, responsive. medical/supportive care to older adults;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Liberal Party of Canada (LPC) urge the Government of Canada, in consultation with stakeholders, to take action to dramatically improve community-care for older adults through:

- *Federal Funding* – to support community-care for older adults, dependent on compliance with national guidelines/standards; funding for self managed care to be encouraged where feasible;
- *Housing in the Community* - increased federal tax credits for accessibility modifications and necessary transitions;
- *Regulated Personal Support Workers* - national standards for training, accreditation, supervision, compensation, and worker protection; facilitation of recruitment;
- *Multidisciplinary Care Teams* - national guidelines for multidisciplinary teams (with gerontological training and a person-centered approach) offering comprehensive care in the community;
- *Support for Unpaid Caregivers* – encouragement of more unpaid caregivers by expansion of available refundable tax credits;
- *Innovation* - investment in innovation (AI/robotics/smart-home) to improve independent community living and alleviate the quality care worker shortage crisis;
- *Accountability* - transparency & accountability to Canadians, through annual reporting of metrics on how care needs are met in the community, and on compliance with standards.

**Submitted by:** SLC & SLC (Alberta)

**Contact:** H. Williamson, [hilary.williamson@sympatico.ca](mailto:hilary.williamson@sympatico.ca)

**Endorsed by:**

EDA Gatineau (QC)

EDA Pontiac (QC)

**Background Papers:**

<http://slc-cal.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/07/SLC-Aging-in-the-Right-Place-Background-Paper.pdf>

<http://slc-cal.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/07/Background-Paper-Senior-Home-Care-Accessibility.pdf>

**Word Count: 275**