

## **SUPPORTING CANADIAN SENIORS**

### **Liberal accomplishments for Canadian Seniors since 2015**

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## Supporting Canadian Seniors

After all they've done to make Canada what it is today, seniors deserve a safe and secure retirement. That's why Justin Trudeau and our Liberal team will continue to support seniors so that they can enjoy the retirement they deserve. And as the only federal political party with a Senior's Commission, we are committed to advocating on behalf of our members to ensure seniors are well supported from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

Since 2015, our Liberal team has made significant progress to make life more affordable and ensure seniors are supported as they age with dignity.

Here are some of the ways we've supported seniors over the years:

### Making life more affordable for Canadian Seniors

- Increasing the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) up to \$947 annually for low-income single seniors, improving the financial security of about 900,000 vulnerable seniors.
- Increasing the Old Age Security (OAS) pension by 10% for all seniors aged 75+, providing an average of \$800 over the first year to pensioners receiving the full benefit.
- Restoring the age of eligibility for OAS and GIS back to 65, from 67, after the Conservatives raised it.
- For the 2022 and subsequent taxation years, the Budget proposes to increase the annual expense limit of the Home Accessibility Tax Credit to \$20,000, which would provide a tax credit of up to \$3,000.
- Improving services to eligible Canadian seniors by introducing automatic enrolment for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and proactively enrolling Canadians who are entitled to a retirement pension under the CPP at age 70, thereby ensuring all seniors receive the pension they are entitled to.
- Enhanced the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) maximum yearly benefit for future retirees by about 50%, meaningfully reducing the risk of not saving enough for retirement. The Quebec Pension Plan followed suit.
- Moving forward with Canada's First Poverty Reduction Strategy to reduce poverty by 50% by 2030, from 2015 levels, including among seniors.
- Issuing one-time, tax-free payments to help seniors who received pandemic benefits and saw reductions in GIS, worth over \$1,500 to a low-income couple.



## Building a healthier Canada for seniors

- Created Canada's first-ever National Dementia Strategy, to support Canadians living with dementia and the family and friends who provide care.
- Moving forward to create the new Canadian Dental Care Plan to provide dental care coverage for 9 million uninsured Canadians who have an annual family income of less than \$90,000, including children, people living with disabilities and seniors by the end of 2023.
- Investing in a better public health care system to reduce wait times, improve access to family health teams, and ensure seniors have access to safe, respectful and high-quality care when needed.
- Investing \$100 million to promote mental health and prevent mental illness in populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19, including seniors and creating the Wellness Together app to connect Canadians to a wide variety of professionals for confidential support.
- Improved eligibility criteria for access to the Disability Tax Credit to support even more Canadian seniors. For 2021 and later tax years, it is estimated that an additional 45,000 people will qualify for the Disability Tax Credit and related benefit programs linked to its eligibility each year.

## Helping Seniors Age in Place

- Working with provinces, territories and stakeholders, to raise the bar in LTC homes by welcoming new national LTC standards, and invested \$3 billion to support provinces and territories in their efforts to improve LTC in their jurisdictions.
- Allocating \$1.7 billion over five years in Budget 2023 to support hourly wage increases for personal support workers and related professions.
- For the 2022 and subsequent taxation years, the Budget proposes to increase the annual expense limit of the Home Accessibility Tax Credit to \$20,000, which would provide a tax credit of up to \$3,000.
- Supporting the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) Aging in Place Challenge program to work with research organizations and support older Canadians in their choice to age in place through technology and innovation.
- Investing \$90 million through the Age Well at Home Initiative, to fund senior serving organizations that offer services such as housekeeping, meal delivery, transportation, or snow shoveling, thereby supporting seniors aging in the right place.



- Creating the Multigenerational Home Renovation Tax Credit, providing up to \$7,500 in support for constructing a secondary suite for a senior or an adult with a disability.
- Improving access to home and community care, and mental health and addictions services for Canadians by making historic investments in home and community care and working with provinces and territories.
- Tasking the National Seniors Council to study a potential aging at home benefit, to better understand how we can support seniors who want to age in their own homes.

### **Supporting Canada's Most Vulnerable Seniors**

- Strengthening the criminal code by finalizing the definition of elder abuse, investing in better data collection and establishing new offense penalties under the law that are related to elder abuse.
- Providing additional annual funding to the New Horizons for Seniors program to fund over 3,000 community-based projects across the country that promote healthy aging, fight social isolation, and enable seniors to remain engaged members in their communities.
- Launched affordable \$20/month high-speed internet plans through the Connecting Families Initiative, for low-income seniors, allowing them to stay connected with their loved ones.
- Developing the Digital Literacy Exchange program to support seniors' digital literacy skills & equip them with knowledge of computer, mobile device, and internet skills.

### **More Affordable Housing for Seniors**

- Provided a \$500 relief to provide immediate support to low-income renters, including seniors.
- Doubling the rate of home construction and moving forward to support rent-to-own projects to help renters become owners.
- Building new, affordable units faster, including for renters and those most vulnerable through the Rapid Housing Initiative.