



Linda Jeffrey

Member of the Expert Panel, National Seniors Council

Linda is an individual who has an established an almost 40-year history in public and community service. She served as a City Councillor in Brampton for 12 years and in 2003 she was elected to the Ontario Legislative Assembly for eleven years.

While at the Province Linda served as Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Labour, Minister Responsible for Seniors, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as well as Chair of Cabinet. She returned to her municipal roots in 2014 and served as Mayor of Brampton until 2018.

In 2019 Linda joined Jake's House to help launch their Community Living Initiative as their Director of Housing to grow supportive, long-term inclusive living solutions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

In 2021, she was appointed to the National Seniors Council.

She currently serves as the Executive Director to the Guelph Wellington Senior's Association one of the largest seniors' organizations of its kind in Canada.

National Seniors Council

Conseil national des aînés

Supporting Canadians Aging at Home



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

Canada

National Seniors Council

- In 2007, the Government of Canada established the National Seniors Council (NSC).
- The NSC advises the Minister of Labour and Seniors and the Minister of Health on matters related to the health, well-being, and quality of life of seniors.
- The Council members contribute diverse perspectives and experiences, including lived experience, research, public policy development and evaluation, program design and delivery, and elected office.

Context

- In a 2020 survey, 96% of Canadians aged 65 and older reported that they would do everything they could to avoid going into a long-term care facility.
- In 2021, 475,000 Canadians reported unmet home care needs, with the highest prevalence among those aged 65 and older.
- Federal Budget in 2022 proposed creating an Expert Panel to explore an Aging at Home Benefit.
- The National Seniors Council (NSC) was selected to serve as the Expert Panel.

Mandate

- Panel was directed to undertake a review of, and provide recommendations on, measures that could support seniors aging at home.

Identify existing Canadian measures and international best practices that support aging at home.

Identify what is needed to further support older persons to age safely at home with dignity.

Assess current and potential federal measures to address key needs for aging in place.

Scope of Work

- The Expert Panel examined the topic of Aging at Home through various activities including:

Baseline Information

Environmental Scan

Literature Review

Consultation

Public Survey

Virtual Roundtables and
Interviews with Experts

Findings

- Expert Panel identified and analyzed the barriers to aging at home:

Availability:

Ensure information, resources and supports are available.

Accessibility:

Ensure equal access to information, services and supports, by improving navigation services.

Affordability:

Ensure older persons can afford services and supports.

Accountability:

Ensure governments, organizations, service providers and vendors are held accountable.

Recommended Priority Areas

- The Expert Panel identified three key focus areas in response to national and international demographic trends:
 - Financial benefits focusing on low-income older persons
 - Community-based support and services
 - Planning for aging, retirement
- Simultaneous action on key recommendations would help ensure all older adults can age at home, regardless of socioeconomic status or health.

Final Report

- On June 25, 2024, the report ***Supporting Canadians Aging at Home: Ensuring Quality of Life as We Age*** was published.
- The report offers 20 recommendations that
 - consider the current socioeconomic landscape
 - align with the four key policy pillars: Affordability, Accessibility, Availability, and Accountability
 - align to the five domains of the *Quality of Life Framework for Aging in Canada*: Prosperity, Health, Society, Environment and Good Governance

Recommendations

Prosperity

1. Introduce a new Age at Home Benefit
2. Establish a public national insurance program for home care and support
3. Increase the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
4. Expand/change eligibility criteria, and promote existing programs that provide housing for older persons
5. Convert the Canada Caregiver Credit into a refundable tax-free benefit, allowing caregivers to receive up to \$1,250 a year

Health

6. Develop a strategy for recruitment and retention of human resources to support aging at home
7. Focus on disease prevention and health promotion
8. Enhance palliative care at home

Recommendations Cont'd

Society

9. Support innovation with affordable housing alternatives for older persons
10. Invest in new and existing navigation and social prescribing initiatives
11. Expand existing grants and contributions programs to include longer-term funding options
12. Invest in organizations that support caregivers

Environment

13. Invest in technology and digital literacy and further invest in innovation in technology
14. Expand support for age-friendly communities
15. Invest in safe, local public transportation services

Recommendations Cont'd

Good Governance

16. Enact legislation on home care (within the Canada Health Act or new legislation)
17. Enact legislation on long-term care
18. Support the development of national home care standards
19. Increase prevention of mistreatment of older persons
20. Actively engage in discussions at the United Nations regarding the potential development of a convention on the rights of older persons

Next Steps

“The Government of Canada has an important role to play in supporting people in Canada to age in their own homes and communities, for as long as possible. This report will guide our ongoing efforts to develop targeted policies and initiatives that promote healthy aging and ensure that older persons have access to the care and support they need.”

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health