

Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia - Priorities 2017 – 2018

The Seniors Advisory Council of Nova Scotia will advocate for seniors in this province for measurable improvements in the following priorities by being informed and influencing the decision makers in various government departments responsible to carry out the actions of the priority.

- Priority #1 Patient Centered Health Care
- Priority #2 Monitor the recommendations of SHIFT:
Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population
- Priority #3 Financial and Pension Security in Retirement
- Priority #4 Facilitate the Participation of Seniors in Nova Scotia's Economic Recovery
- Priority #5 Support for Caregivers
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To focus the energies of the Senior Advisory Council towards achieving these priorities the Council has established a list of tasks and desirable outcomes for each priority. It must be noted that the tasks may change or be acted on in a different precedence depending on the issues arising when the Council is meeting or based on new information available at various stages of deliberations. Also the tasks or actions listed may change when new information is presented.

Priority #1 - Patient Centered Health Care:

- Provide input and monitor the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program to ensure sustainability, efficacy, fairness, and equitable access to a wide range of medications.
- Provide input to the 2017 Continuing Care Strategy including a balanced patient care system to address the needs of both institutional and home care that is adequately resourced.
- Ensure that the Dementia Strategy - Year 3 is properly resourced in order to implement its specific actions.
- Provide input to the Integrated Palliative Care Strategy.
- Provide advice on reforming access to primary health care (general practitioners and collaborative care centers) and priority surgery systems to ensure they meet national wait time benchmarks.
- Provide input in hiring more family doctors, general practitioners and medical specialists to service all parts of Nova Scotia.
- Request the provincial government to lobby the federal government in support of a one Canadian purchaser national pharmaceutical formulary.

Priority #2

Monitor the recommendations of SHIFT:

Nova Scotia's Action Plan for An Aging Population

- Access to housing appropriate to seniors' needs including affordable and supportive housing as well as assisted living services.
 - Provide input to Housing Nova Scotia to accelerate funding and policies that impact seniors housing in their own homes, apartments or public housing (this would include affordability, renovations and accessibility to needed community services).
 - Access to programs which enable older adults to live active and healthier lives and to remain and renew engagement in their communities to support community living and reduce social isolation for older adults.
 - Access to affordable and accessible transportation, in particular rural Nova Scotia, for seniors to reach essential services.
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Priority #3

Financial and Pension Security in Retirement

- Oppose federal Bill C-27 in order to protect retirees with a defined benefit pension plan and related benefits from conversion to a shared risk pension plan without their knowledge and agreement.
 - Provide input to the government Poverty Reduction Strategy
 - Ensure that low income seniors continue to receive provincial assistance to supplement gaps between the federal income support programs and low income thresholds.
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Priority #4

Facilitate the Participation of Seniors in Nova Scotia's Economic Recovery

- Recognize older adults as entrepreneurs and demonstrate an age-friendly, inclusive and intergenerational workplace that values older workers.
 - Gather input to determine how older adults can contribute to the goals of the Report of the Nova Scotia Commission on Building A New Economy.
 - Advise on social enterprise/volunteerism support.
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Priority #5

Support for Caregivers

- Seek support for family and friends as caregivers.
- Support work place leave protection.
- Advocate for respite care for caregivers.