

Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia – Priorities 2019 – 2020

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

- Patient Centered Health Care
- Support the Continued Implementation of SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population
- Financial and Pension Security in Retirement
- Facilitate the Participation of Seniors in Nova Scotia's Economic Recovery
- Support for Caregivers

To focus the energies of the Seniors 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.

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 into the 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 continues to be properly resourced in order to implement its specific actions
- Support 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
- Encourage the hiring of more family doctors, general practitioners and medical specialists to adequately serve all regions of Nova Scotia
- Request the provincial government support a national, universal pharmacare and the implementation of a national formulary

**Support the implementation of SHIFT:
Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population**

- Continue to support initiatives to improve housing programs appropriate to seniors' needs including affordable and supportive housing as well as assisted living services
- Monitor the Housing Nova Scotia (2019-2022) Action Plan to accelerate policies that impact seniors housing in their 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

Financial and Pension Security in Retirement

- Oppose any federal legislation that would lead to the demise of defined benefit pension plans in order to protect retirees from conversion to a shared risk pension plan without their knowledge and agreement
- Support the government's 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

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

- Recognize older adults as entrepreneurs and demonstrate an age-friendly, inclusive and intergenerational workplaces that value older workers
- Encourage all efforts that assist older adults to the goals of the Report of the Nova Scotia Commission on Building a New Economy
- Provide advice on social enterprise/volunteerism support

Support for Caregivers

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

