



Office of the Seniors' Advocate – An Update

Research Exchange Group on Aging
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Seniors' Advocate Act

- July 5, 2017 – Act and Regulations were proclaimed and came into effect
- November 7, 2017 – Seniors' Advocate appointed
- Statutory Office reporting directly to HOA
- Independent Office
 - Level III Entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act* (3-Year Activity Plan & Annual Activity Report)

Definitions

➤ **senior:**

an individual who is (i) 65 years of age or older or (ii) less than 65 years of age and receives seniors' services.

➤ **seniors' services:**

programs, services or systems of support, prescribed in the regulations, that are related to **health care, personal care, housing, transportation** or **finances** that are used by or associated with seniors.

➤ **service providers:**

the public or private persons or bodies prescribed in the regulations who fund or deliver, in whole or in part, seniors' services.

Role

- identify, review and analyze **systemic issues** related to seniors;
- work collaboratively with seniors' organizations, service providers and others to identify and address systemic issues related to seniors; and
- make recommendations to government and government agencies respecting changes to improve seniors' services.

Powers and Duties

- Outreach and Engagement
- Public Awareness
- Tracking and Trending
- Reviews

Long May Your Big Jib Draw: Setting Sail

- Report released on September 25, 2019
- Three Major Areas:
 - Aging in Place
 - Healthcare
 - Labour Force Participation
- 11 priority areas and 25 potential actions/recommendations

Update

- Impact of Covid-19 on Seniors
- Progress on implementation of actions/recommendations
- Importance of Research
- Media/Presentations

Impact of Covid-19 on Seniors in NL

Ageism

Technology

Social isolation

Access to essentials

Progress on implementation of actions/recommendations

- Impact of State of Emergency/COVID on Progress
 - Priorities change
 - Restrictions
 - Singular focus
 - Calls: +++ dispensing fees, visitation, finances, access to services
- 3 categories; 11 priority areas and 25 potential actions
 - Continued monitoring of numerous actions
 - Continued to work on reviews (Homelessness, LTC, Oral Health, Mental Health)

Importance of Research

- Engaged in applications for funding for research initiatives
- Participated in selection committee for ARC-NL
- Partnering with Support/NL and Patient Partners re study on Impact of COVID on Residents in LTC
- Partnering with Quality of Care NL to duplicate BC Study on LTC

Media/Presentations

Media Interviews

- Canada Press, VOXM, CBC Radio Canada, NTV, CBC-NL, Telegram
- Topics: Loneliness/social isolation, sexual assault, ageism, elections etc.

Presentations

- CARP (National, Atlantic) Chancellor Park, Seniors Advocate Sask, SeniorsNL, PACAS,
- Issues in LTC, impact of COVID, role of social work.....
- Numerous ongoing education session through IFA

Contact Information

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