

LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA

PLATFORM 2015 – SENIORS

A review of 2015 platform brochures presented on www.realchange.ca results in the identification of a number of initiatives related to seniors. These initiatives reflect a number of the issues raised by the Seniors' Commission through various policy resolutions. At the same time, not all of these initiatives relate specifically to today's seniors, some will enhance the financial security of a younger generation of Canadians who are still in the work place.

Financial Security for Seniors:

- A new Liberal finance minister (**Bill Morneau**), as a priority, will arrange within three months a meeting with his provincial and territorial counterparts to initiate work toward enhancing the Canadian Pension Plan. These discussions will be expanded to include workers, employers, and retiree organisations.
- Restore the age for accessing OAS and GIS to 65 (Ministry Responsible: Families, Children and Social Development) (**Jean-Yves Duclos**)
- Increase GIS payments for low income seniors living alone by 10% benefiting up to 1.25 million low income seniors, the majority of whom are women and often over the age of 80 years (Ministry Responsible: Families, Children and Social Development) (**Jean-Yves Duclos**)
- Increase OAS and GIS payments to a new Seniors Price Index, which will generally increase faster than the General Cost of Living (inflation) (Ministry Responsible: Families, Children and Social Development) (**Jean-Yves Duclos**)
- Maintain the income splitting program for seniors (Ministry Responsible: Finance)

Affordable Housing:

- Within the 10 year infrastructure program, significant new investment will be prioritized for affordable housing and seniors facilities (Ministries Responsible (setting priorities): Families, Children and Social Development (**Jean-Yves Duclos**); (implementation) Infrastructure and Communities (implementation): (**Amarjeet Sohi**))

Health Care

- The Liberal government will re-engage with the provincial governments in relation to health care and negotiate a new Health Accord to address certain deficiencies within the existing legislation to reflect the needs of an aging society (Ministry Responsible: Health) (**Jane Philpott**)
- A \$3 billion commitment over four years to support home care, including in long term care facilities (Ministry Responsible: Health) (**Jane Philpott**)
- Improving access and reducing the cost of prescription medications. (Ministry Responsible: Health) (**Jane Philpott**)
- Increasing the availability of high-quality mental health services, including consideration of the recommendations of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. (Ministry Responsible: Health) (**Jane Philpott**)
- Expanding the Compassionate Care Benefit within EI program for seniors care givers (Ministry Responsible: Health) (**Jane Philpott**)