

# ADVOCATING FOR CANADIANS AS WE AGE

## 2018-19 IMPACT REPORT

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# MESSAGES FROM CARP

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## **MOSES ZNAIMER**

CARP Chair & President

With more than 300,000 members across the country and 1,000 Canadians turning 65 every day, CARP is a crucial voice for Canadians as we age. We undertake critical advocacy work as we speak out, not only for the well-being of our members, but for the rights of ALL older Canadians. Thank you for your support!

## **WANDA MORRIS**

Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer

We engage with our members through our chapters, our polls and the stories they share with us. This input guides our priorities, shapes our policies, and ultimately influences government decisions. Over the past year, our members and coalition partners took action. This report highlights key wins achieved with the support of our members, and looks ahead to our priorities for next year.



*Wanda Morris*



## **LAURA TAMBLYN WATTS**

Chief Public Policy Officer

CARP is proud to be working with stakeholders across the country, including FADOQ in Quebec and the International Federation on Ageing, to advocate for older adults in Canada. We are also partnering with major research centres, such as the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly, the CIHR Institute of Aging and AGE-WELL, to advance the best public policy ideas. We thank our members for being an active partner in this work.

*Laura Tambllyn Watts*

# OUR MEMBERS TELL US...

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government should  
take steps to protect  
pensions when  
companies go bankrupt



**KNOW**  
an older  
Canadian who  
has been abused



the government should  
invest in elder abuse  
prevention and response



and one-third dedicate  
more than 40 hours  
weekly to caregiving



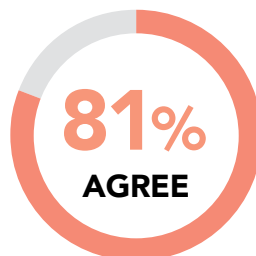
or had their  
prescription drug  
benefits reduced  
at retirement



about their ability  
to access dementia  
supports



about the time it  
takes to access  
medical specialists



it takes too  
long to access  
diagnostic  
procedures like  
MRIs and CTs



there are not enough  
staff to care for  
residents living in  
long-term care



# 2018 CARP ADVOCACY IN ACTION

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## **Federal Minister for Seniors Appointed**

We applauded the [July 2018 appointment](#) of the Honourable Filomena Tassi, as Federal Minister for Seniors following CARP's calls for a dedicated voice for seniors in Parliament.

## **CARP Joins National Pharmacare Consultation**

Local chapters and the CARP advocacy team made submissions to the national consultation on pharmacare to ensure the [voices of older Canadians were heard](#).

## **Real Protection for Canadian Pensioners**

Over 2000 CARP volunteers [reached out to politicians across Canada](#) to push for real protection for pensioners during a National Day of Action, and a lobby day on Parliament Hill.

## **Free High Dose Flu Vaccines for Seniors in Ontario**

CARP is declaring victory in Ontario, which will now offer a [free high-dose influenza vaccine](#) to adults over 65.

## **Ontario Inquiry into Safety and Security in Long-term Care Homes**

Ontario responded to CARP's [call for an inquiry](#) into safety and staffing in long-term care homes, following the conviction of nurse Elizabeth Wettlaufer on eight counts of first degree murder.

## **Support for Drivers over 80 in British Columbia**

CARP North Fraser worked with the British Columbia government to [support age-positive changes](#) to the enhanced road assessment test for seniors over 80.

## **Door to Door Sales Ban in Ontario**

CARP Etobicoke worked closely with their local MPP to stop [predatory door-to-door sales practices](#). New consumer protection legislation took effect on March 1, 2018.





Moses Znaimer  
CARP Chair and President

Filomena Tassi  
Minister of Seniors



In anticipation of the 2019 federal election, CARP is excited to unveil our platform: the **FACES of Canada's Seniors**. This is a call to action for improving the lives of Canadians as we age. We'll be pushing all parties to commit to specific, measurable improvements in five key areas that matter most to our members:



### **FINANCIAL SECURITY**

- Protect pensioners by granting unfunded pension liabilities super-priority status in the event of bankruptcy or insolvency.
- Eliminate mandatory RRIF withdrawals to better protect the middle class.
- Improve protections for bank customers and investors.
- Provide additional support to the poorest older Canadians by extending the GIS exemption to all forms of income, and lowering the claw back rate on the GIS top-up.



### **ABUSE PREVENTION**

- Establish a national 1-800 number to report and track elder abuse and connect Canadians with services and supports.
- Provide long term funding for the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.



### **CAREGIVING AND HOUSING SUPPORTS**

- Make the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit a refundable tax credit to ensure all caregivers, who are overwhelmingly women, are treated equally.
- Align provincial employment standards with federal EI benefits, increase the Family Caregiver Benefit to 27 weeks.
- Amend the Home Accessibility Tax Credit from a \$10,000 per dwelling to a \$10,000 a per-person tax credit.



### **EXCEPTIONAL HEALTH CARE**

- Adopt and implement single-payer, comprehensive, sustainable and evidence-based pharmacare.
- Fund the High Dose Flu and Shingrix vaccines for all older Canadians.

- Adopt and fully fund a National Dementia Strategy.
- Increase funding to reduce wait times for diagnostic testing and surgeries.
- Increase funding and access to vision, auditory and dental care.
- Reduce wait times for hospitalization, rehabilitation and long-term care placement and increase the number of acute care beds.
- Increase hours, flexibility and funding for home and respite care services.
- Create more affordable and safer long-term care options that meet diverse health needs.
- Make accessible, end-of-life palliative care a right for all Canadians and ensure access to medical assistance in dying is provided at all publicly funded institutions.



## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- Invest in resources and supports for people who are experiencing marginalization and social isolation.
- Implement flexible pension and tax policy to encourage paid work after age 65.



## **Become a CARP member**

1. Support the call for a National Seniors Strategy
2. Remind the Prime Minister that Seniors Matter – **email:** [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)
3. Raise seniors issues with your local candidates
4. VOTE!

We work to uphold the rights and improve the lives of Canadians as we age.



Laura Tamblyn Watts  
Chief Public Policy Officer



Wanda Morris  
Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer

CARP's more than **300,000 members** play an active role in developing our advocacy agenda.

Our members are committed to **real change** for older Canadians and are making their voices heard.



### Sign-Up for **CARP** Action

Get updates on advocacy campaigns at [carp.ca/newsletters](http://carp.ca/newsletters)

### Find Your Community Chapter

Visit [carp.ca/chapters](http://carp.ca/chapters) to connect with local members.

**70 Jefferson Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario M6K 1Y4**

Toll-free 1-833-211-2277

Email [support@carp.ca](mailto:support@carp.ca)



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