



**Karina Gould, MP**

**WELCOMES**

**Marc Serré, MP**



# **NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY**

## **FEEDBACK REPORT**

**Thank you to everyone who attended our community consultation on forming a National Seniors' Strategy.**

**This report reviews the concerns and suggestions raised by our community members.**

**December 2017**



# NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY FEEDBACK REPORT



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# NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY FEEDBACK REPORT



## Town Hall Summary

MP Marc Serré's motion to develop a National Seniors' Strategy, M-106, passed on May 17th, 2017.

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the Honourable Karina Gould hosted MP Serré in Burlington for a community consultation on forming a National Seniors' Strategy.

During the community consultation, MP Serré presented a PowerPoint presentation, which can be found in the Appendix of this report.

It was noted that the Federal Government has taken measures to ensure that seniors are supported in every community across Canada. These include:

- Investing \$6 billion over 10 years to improve access to homecare
- Enhanced GIS benefits of up to \$947 per year
- Restoring the age of eligibility for OAS and GIS to 65
- National Housing Strategy: Providing more affordable housing options by investing \$40 billion over 10 years—including more than 12,000 new affordable housing units for seniors
- Enhanced the Canada Pension Plan to increase the maximum level of pension earnings to 14% as of 2025.
- Lowering prescription medication prices.

After the presentation, attendees were asked to break out into groups to discuss their recommendations for the strategy and reconvene thereafter. The following section outlines the group recommendations.



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## Breakout Group Recommendations

### Group One

- Subsidize dental care and hearing aids to allow people to socially engage
- Need to focus on preventative medicine instead of reactive

### Group Two

- Medication should be free for seniors and standardized refill price policies across all pharmacies should be regulated, shouldn't have to fight for a particular deal from one pharmacy to another
- There ought to be better transport to day programs available from one's own home

### Group Three

- Staying at one's own home is really important, perhaps through a subsidy
- Guaranteed income would be advisable
- Standard price for prescription refills ought to be regulated

### Group Four

- Dental care is often avoided due to inability to afford, subsidy recommended
- Encourage developers to include accessible units as they build instead of renovating later would be wise

### Group Five

- Mental health issues are prevalent, isolation and loneliness serious problems
- When renovating one's home to be more accessible, the government currently offers a tax credit, however, it should be a subsidy or grant to ensure aid for those who don't have existing funds to pay upfront

### Group Six

- Pensions ought to be placed as a priority before other liabilities for bankruptcy to protect people's pensions

### Group Seven

- Nationwide pharmacare
- Seniors crime prevention efforts (with a focus on anti-fraud and elder abuse)



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## Community Feedback



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## Trends

The following trends were observed in the individual feedback forms and online submissions we received from community members.

### Top priorities:

1. Standard price for prescription refills to keep drug costs down
2. Basic income to avoid poverty
3. Social seclusion and isolation strategy through support networks and recreation programs
4. Dental care subsidies



# NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY FEEDBACK REPORT



## Thank You

Thank you for your interest in forming a National Seniors' Strategy. Your suggestions and recommendations will inform policy makers.

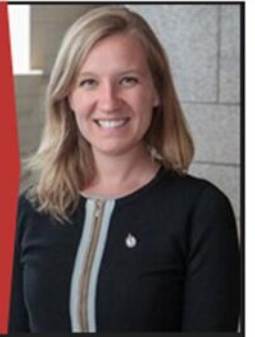
If you have any further questions, concerns, or recommendations, please do not hesitate to reach out by:

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# NATIONAL SENIORS' STRATEGY FEEDBACK REPORT



## Appendix