



ONTARIO SENIORS' SECRETARIAT

Did you know that Ontario is home to almost half of the country's senior citizens? It is the goal of the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat to improve the quality of life for Ontario's millions of seniors. People just like you.

Ontario is Canada's first province to create and implement a strategy to combat elder abuse. The strategy is comprised of three fundamental goals: community services co-ordination, a public awareness campaign and staff training for front-line workers.

The secretariat functions to:

- Initiate policy with a multi-ministry focus.
- Educate seniors on the programs and services available to them.
- Educate seniors on how they can maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- Educate the public on the contributions that seniors are making on an ongoing basis in their communities and outside them.
- Partner with the nine largest existing seniors organizations in the province to educate those organizations on policy and education initiatives.

The secretariat is currently active in the following policy initiatives:

- The implementation of the province's strategy on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.
- The implementation of the province's strategy to combat Elder abuse.
- Staff training and educating the public in order to assist seniors who may require care in later years to decide now, while capable, of their plan for future care.

Their public education/awareness initiatives are:

- Continuing work on the "Memory Project". This involves veteran seniors, who on a volunteer basis provide living history to over 50,000

Ontario students.

- Senior seminars to create awareness among seniors of the programs and services to which they are entitled.
- Providing a directory of both government and community-based programs and services geared to seniors. This comes in pamphlet form and is entitled "A guide to Programs and Services for Seniors on Ontario"

On behalf of seniors like yourself, the Secretariat forms partnerships with organizations across the province and provides guidance in policy and program development. The Secretariat's goal is to develop and deliver programs to ensure seniors' safety, health and activity.

The website includes sections pertaining to:

- Seniors' Info
- Elder abuse
- Alzheimer Disease
- Seniors programs and services in Ontario
- Programs of interest to seniors
- Advance care planning
- Seniors' seminars
- Retirement home complaints response and information service (CRIS)
- Seniors' month
- Protecting seniors
- Honoring seniors
- Veterans
- Organizations partnered with the Secretariat

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