



AGING IN 2025

**A REPORT ON POLITICAL PRIORITIES
IN AGING ACROSS CANADA**



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ABOUT APPTA

The AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA) supports governments in generating opportunities to address the policy and practice challenges of an aging population. A joint initiative of AGE-WELL and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, APPTA aims to bridge the gap between research and implementation, create opportunities for knowledge exchange, and foster an environment of innovation and collaboration in aging across Canada.

APPTA's work in knowledge translation is centered on providing federal, provincial, and territorial governments across Canada with decision support in policy innovation for the aging population. Our policy option development process aims to bridge the knowledge translation gap by mobilizing aging and technology research to build relevant, appropriate, and evidence-informed options that can improve the lives of older Canadians.

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Aging in 2025

A Report on Political Priorities in Aging across Canada

Introduction

This report is the AGE-WELL Innovation Hub – Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA) 2024-2025 jurisdictional scan of federal, provincial, and territorial policy priorities for the aging population. In 2024 and 2025, several topics identified in our previous scans^{1,2,3} became more widespread while others were mentioned by fewer jurisdictions in statements about policy priorities. Broadly, policy priorities in the 2019 scan revolved around measures to address population aging, such as increasing the availability of publicly funded home care, construction of long-term care facilities, and hiring healthcare workers to meet growing demands. The most prominent policy areas identified in the 2021 report were responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the threat it posed to older adults. The high priority policy topics identified in the 2023 scan changed again as policymakers focused on measures to address impacts on older adults of high post-pandemic inflation and economic destabilization from international events.

Economic pressures and international political instability continued to impact federal, provincial, and territorial policies related to the aging population in 2024 and 2025. Governments across Canada announced measures to increase supplemental benefits, or index them to inflation, to provide financial stability for older adults. As part of overall economic stimulus efforts, governments announced investments in long-term care facility and hospital capital infrastructure, and investment in the construction of affordable housing for older adults. While temporary economic and international crises have demanded attention from policymakers since 2020, ongoing economic and health system impacts stemming from population aging also continued. Policy statements about publicly funded extended health coverage for older adults, home care initiatives, support programs for caregivers, and the release of aging strategies by the federal government and several provinces or territories reflect recognition by those jurisdictions that measures which support older people to age well remain important.

¹ Aging in 2019: <https://agewell-nih-appta.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2021/07/J-Aging-in-2019.pdf>

² Aging in 2021: https://agewell-nih-appta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/JSCAN2021_Final-1.pdf

³ Aging in 2023: https://agewell-nih-appta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Aging-in-2023-Scan_formatted_v3.pdf

As with the previous jurisdictional scans, the purpose of this report is to update our understanding of changes in federal, provincial and territorial policies related to the care and support for older adults. The authors conducted a review to capture these developments, examining budgets, throne speeches, mandate letters, and other documents that present high-level policy priorities. A full list of the documents screened is provided in APPENDIX A. To facilitate comparisons between priorities at different times, this analysis follows the overall framework used in the earlier reports.

Overview: The Canadian Political Landscape

In 2024 and 2025, the federal government, six provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador) and two territories (Yukon, Nunavut) held general elections. Only three of the elections resulted in a new governing party, with New Brunswick electing a Liberal government, Newfoundland and Labrador electing a Progressive Conservative government, and Yukon electing the Yukon Party. The overall pattern of governments across Canada remained consistent, with conservatively-oriented parties returning to power in most provinces ⁴ and the Liberal Party remaining in power at the federal level. One important federal government change occurred within the Liberal Party. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau resigned in early 2025 ⁵ and was replaced by Mark Carney, who subsequently won a minority government in the 2025 general election ⁶. Table 1 and Figure 1 provide an overview of provincial, territorial, and federal leadership as of December 2025.

Table 1: Government Leadership across Canada

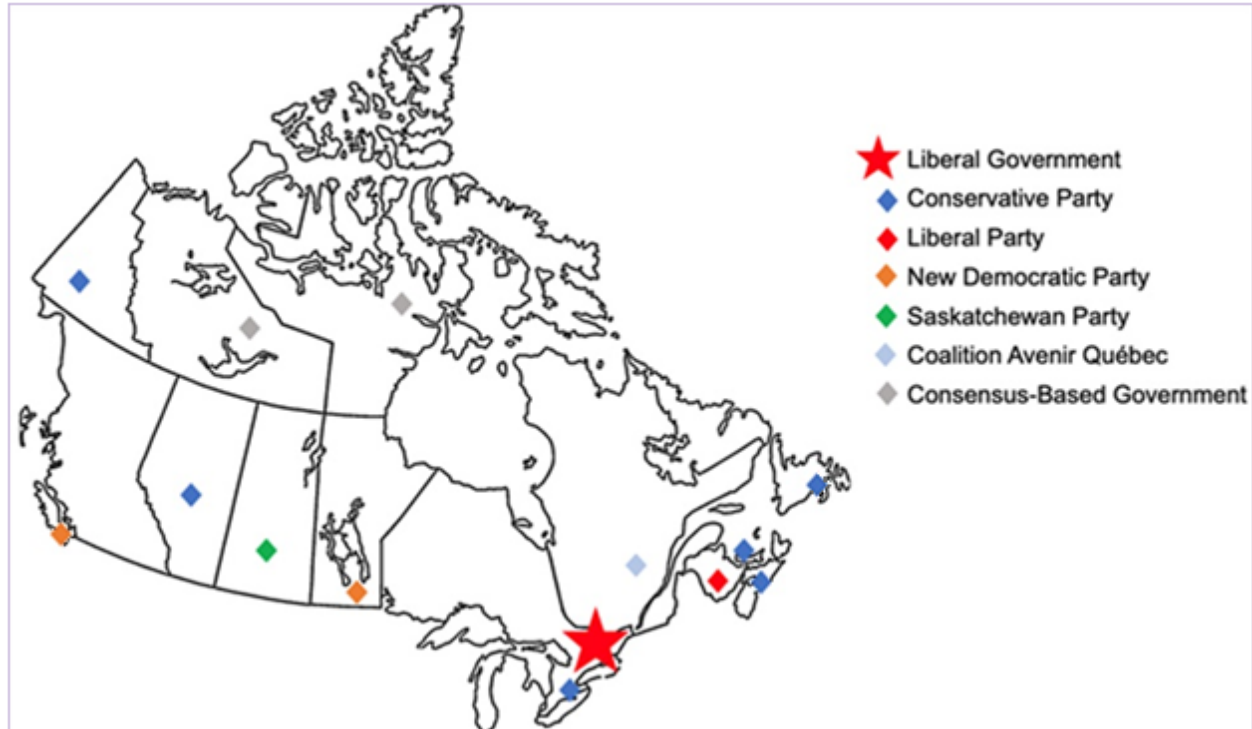
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Federal Right. Hon. Mark Carney Liberal Majority</p> | <p>Yukon Hon. Currie Dixon Yukon Party Majority</p> | <p>Northwest Territories Hon. R. J. Simpson Consensus-Based Government</p> |
| <p>Nunavut Hon. John Main Consensus-Based Government</p> | <p>British Columbia Hon. David Eby New Democratic Party Majority</p> | <p>Alberta Hon. Danielle Smith United Conservative Majority</p> |
| <p>Saskatchewan Hon. Scott Moe Saskatchewan Party Majority</p> | <p>Manitoba Hon. Wab Kinew New Democratic Party Majority</p> | <p>Ontario Hon. Doug Ford Progressive Conservative Majority</p> |
| <p>Québec Hon. François Legault Coalition Avenir Québec Majority</p> | <p>New Brunswick Hon. Susan Holt Liberal Majority</p> | <p>Nova Scotia Hon. Tim Houston Progressive Conservative Majority</p> |
| <p>Prince Edward Island Hon. Dennis King Progressive Conservative Majority</p> | <p>Newfoundland & Labrador Hon. Tony Wakeham Progressive Conservative Majority</p> | |

⁴ The Coalition Avenir de Québec (CAQ), United Conservative Party, Saskatchewan Party and Yukon Party are not affiliated with the Progressive Conservative Party or Conservative Party of Canada; however, their political platforms are classified as conservative.

⁵ CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-removes-himself-equation-1.7424405>

⁶ CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/livestory/everything-that-unfolded-on-canadas-election-night-and-the-day-after-9.6738893>

Figure 1: Governing Parties in Canada



Policy priorities in 2024 and 2025 continued to emphasize some of the topics that were prominent in 2022-2023, particularly those related to financial support for older adults. Although the Canadian inflation rate declined by more than two thirds from its peak in 2022 ⁷, economic concerns remained prominent due to uncertainty caused by US tariff policies ⁸. The federal government and British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and Northwest Territories announced increases to pensions or social benefit payments. Manitoba, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia also announced increased tax credits or rebates for older adults. Affordable housing for older adults also gained prominence in 2024-2025 compared to 2022-2023, as the federal government and four provinces or territories announced affordable housing construction initiatives or financial supports to help older adults meet rental costs.

⁷ Globe and Mail: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/topics/bank-of-canada/>

⁸ Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/departement-finance/programmes/international-trade-finance-policy/canadas-response-us-tariffs.html>

In addition to measures intended to help older adults meet financial challenges, several longstanding topics related to health services for older adults were prominent in 2024-25. British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Nunavut announced initiatives to construct or renovate healthcare infrastructure, such as long-term care centres. Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut also prioritized hiring health workers for services that older adults use. Home care is one of the health services that focuses primarily on supporting older adults. The number of provinces or territories announcing home care programs changed little from 2022-2023, but new initiatives to support caregivers of older adults living at home were announced by Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador and Yukon. Finally, several jurisdictions announced additions to publicly funded extended health coverage for older adults. The federal government announced the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan, including coverage for lower and middle-income older adults. Saskatchewan announced the extension of health coverage to include diabetes monitoring equipment and supplies for older adults, while Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador added vaccines or drugs to publicly funded pharmaceutical coverage for older adults.

Table 2: Overview of Policy Priority Areas 2024-2025

| Jurisdiction | Priority Areas | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| | New Seniors' Strategies and Frameworks | Financial Support for Older Adults | Tax Rebates | Housing | Home & Community Care | Long-Term Care | Healthcare Human Resources | Health Coverage Expansion |
| Federal | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Alberta | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| British Columbia | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Manitoba | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| New Brunswick | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Newfoundland & Labrador | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Northwest Territories | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Nova Scotia | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Nunavut | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Ontario | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Québec | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Saskatchewan | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Yukon | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |

Highlights: Political Priorities Across Canada

Federal Priorities

The federal government continued in 2024-2025 to prioritize policies intended to provide financial stability. The 2024 budget emphasized the impacts of changes implemented in 2022 to increase benefits paid through the Old Age Security program, such as the OAS pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and spousal allowances. It also announced changes to the death benefit and survivor benefits paid through the Canada Pension Plan. No additional changes were announced in 2025 to financial benefits for older adults, as the federal government focused its attention on measures to support the wider Canadian economy in response to tariffs imposed by the United States.

While economic measures dominated federal government policy priorities in 2024 and 2025, it also announced some initiatives to help maintain the health of older adults. The *Canadian Dental Care Program* was initially announced in 2022 and received funding in 2023 for the initial roll-out. The program began covering dental care for uninsured people aged 87 and older in December 2023 and was implemented in phases for other older adults during the first six months of 2024. The federal 2024 budget emphasized the program's projected impact, and the 2025 budget mentioned its expansion to people in other demographic categories.

The federal government also announced policies related to home, community and long-term care for older adults. In June 2024, the National Seniors Council released *Supporting Canadians Aging at Home: Ensuring Quality of Life as We Age*, the final report from an expert panel on aging in place. The report emphasized the importance of availability, accessibility, affordability and accountability in enabling older adults to age in place. It recommended several areas for policy and practice development. The federal 2024 budget highlighted implementation of Aging with Dignity funding agreements, which were part of the *Working Together to Improve Health Care in Canada Plan* federal-provincial/territorial funding initiative which was announced in 2023. The Aging with Dignity funding package provided \$5.4 billion to improve access to home care, community care, and long-term care, and by the end of 2025 agreements were established with all provinces and territories. The 2024 budget also announced a plan to introduce a *Safe Long-Term Care Act* in parliament to establish national standards for long-term care. Public engagement regarding the proposed Act was completed in August 2024, but the Act had not been tabled in parliament by the end of 2025. In 2025, the federal budget made few announcements related specifically to health services for older adults. Older adults use

healthcare proportionally more often than the wider population, however, and the federal government allocated \$5 billion to a Health Infrastructure Fund, which will begin providing funding for hospital and long-term care projects in 2026.

In addition to announcing financial support and health initiatives, the federal government continued to fund the New Horizons for Seniors Program in 2024 and 2025 to support community projects that are intended to improve the lives of older adults. The 2024 budget also highlighted increases to the Apartment Construction Loan Program. The program provides favourable financing terms and insurance premiums for construction projects that meet program goals, including the provision of housing for seniors. That program was mentioned in the 2025 budget as part of measures intended to improve housing supply across Canada.

Table 3: Areas of federal programming and budget costs

| Program/Priority Areas | Budget Cost |
|--|--|
| Aging with Dignity funding within the <i>Working Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians Plan</i> bilateral agreements | \$5.4 billion |
| <i>Healthcare Infrastructure Fund</i> | \$5 billion (starting disbursements in 2026) |
| <i>Canadian Dental Care Plan</i> | \$4.4 billion |

Provincial and Territorial Priorities

Most themes related to aging policies and programs which received widespread attention from provincial and territorial governments in 2022-2023 continued to be emphasized in 2024-2025. Some topics which were not widely discussed in 2022-2023 grew in prominence, for example supports for caregivers, while some other topics, such as tax credits or rebates for older adults, were less widely discussed in 2024-2025 than they were in the previous two years. The themes in provincial and territorial policy and program announcements are discussed below.

New older adult support strategies and frameworks

In 2024-2025, British Columbia, Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut released new strategies or frameworks intended to strengthen systems that support older adults. The strategies released by Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut took comprehensive approaches that consider a variety of aspects of aging, while the British Columbia strategy focused on healthy aging. Examples include:

- The Nunavut government's *2024 Aging with Dignity: Elders and Seniors Strategy*, was developed through consultation with elders and older adults in communities across the territory. It identified a variety of social, cultural, housing, health and practical needs that elders and older adults in the territory have, and it listed programs and supports that are in place to meet those needs. Such supports include income supports and heating fuel subsidies, home care and long-term care services, health and medical supports, housing programs, and cultural and legal supports. The strategy also recognized non-governmental organizations that provide services which support aging with dignity. Finally, the strategy set out goals and objectives for future action including supports for aging, grounding decisions in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (traditional knowledge and practices), actions to strengthen communities, measures to address abuse, and improved programs and services for elders and older persons.
- *Age Forward: British Columbia's 50+ Health Strategy and 3-Year Action Plan* was released in 2024 and focused specifically on improving the health of older adults in the immediate term. The action plan focused on five areas for action: Health promotion; Screening, early identification and risk reduction; Supporting health at home; Restoring and preserving health; and Collaboration, accountability and continuous improvement.

The strategies were intended to guide the development and implementation of policies and practices that support the health and well-being of older adults.

Expansions to Health Services for Older Adults

Provincial and territorial governments announced a variety of policies and programs in 2024-2025 that aimed to expand health services for older adults. Relatively few provinces or territories emphasized some policy areas that had received widespread attention in previous years, such as healthcare human resources and home care provision. Other topics received more widespread attention, such as health-related infrastructure construction, additions to publicly-funded health coverage, and supports for caregivers.

1. Healthcare and Long-term Care Infrastructure

In 2024-2025, announcements related to health care infrastructure expansions or renovations became more widespread. British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Nunavut all announced new construction or renovation projects to increase the number of available long-term care beds. Examples include:

- The British Columbia government's 2024 announcement of funding for the construction of new long-term care centres in Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Cranbrook and Prince George to serve residents in the Fraser Health, Island Health, Interior Health and Northern Health regional health authorities, respectively.
- New Brunswick's investment of \$22 million in the construction of nursing homes and speciality care beds. The province also altered the contribution structure for facility-based care. The changes ensure that after a person who has a spouse in a nursing home has paid the nursing home fees, they retain at least 60 percent of their income.

Several provinces also highlighted new hospital construction or expansions to services at hospitals. Manitoba, Québec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador all announced hospital expansion investments. For example,

- The Newfoundland and Labrador 2024 budget speech announced funding for the creation of specialized Acute Care of the Elderly (ACE) units, Seniors-friendly Emergency Departments, and implementation of a multi-disciplinary geriatric-informed care model to better care for older adults during their hospital stays.

2. Healthcare Human Resources

The number of provinces and territories which emphasized healthcare human resources in 2024-2025 remained consistent compared to 2022-2023 and Manitoba, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nunavut made policy or program announcements. Some of the health human resources initiatives mentioned that they were supported by funding provided through Aging with Dignity bilateral agreements between the federal government and provinces or territories. Examples of health human resources policies or initiatives include:

- New Brunswick's 2024 throne speech announced that the government intended to fill staffing gaps in nursing homes and increase wages for home care workers. Actions announced in the provincial 2024 budget included \$2.2 million to increase the per diem rate paid to private nursing home operators for the care of older adults, \$29.7 million to increase wages for workers in care roles, and \$7.3 million for workforce stabilization. Part of the cost of these initiatives was paid from the Canada-New Brunswick Aging with Dignity funding agreement.
- Manitoba's 2024 budget speech announced that the province would recruit 600 health care aides to work in personal care homes and seniors residences, and the 2024 budget committed \$22.3 million to increase the number of direct care hours per resident in personal care homes across the province. The 2025 budget included \$40 million for hiring front line staff to care for older adults in personal care homes.

3. Home and Community Care

The number of jurisdictions announcing new initiatives related to home and community care services in 2024-2025 was similar to 2022-23. British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island all emphasized home and community care programs when describing their policy initiatives. Some examples of home and community care programs are:

- The New Brunswick government's announcement in 2024 and 2025 of expansions to the Nursing Home Without Walls program to allow it to serve more regions, and its 2025 announcement of \$10 million to improve home care supports across the province.
- British Columbia's announcement of a \$100 million increase in funding to improve home and community care services that support older adults to live independently.

4. Caregiver Supports

Alongside formal home care services, unpaid caregivers such as family members and friends play essential roles in enabling older adults to continue residing in their homes⁹. Recognition of the contributions that caregivers make toward enabling aging in place may be growing, as announcements of publicly funded programs that support caregivers were more widespread in 2024-25 than in 2022-23. Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Yukon announced caregiver support policies or programs in 2024-2025. For example,

- Saskatchewan announced in the 2024 budget an increase to the provincial Caregiver Tax Credit available to those who support an elderly relative.
- As part of Newfoundland and Labrador's 2024 *Seniors' Health and Well-Being Plan*, the province introduced a set of programs, including the Caregiver Benefit. The benefit pays \$400 per month to individuals who provide regular care for low-income persons aged 65+ who require significant assistance.

5. Health Coverage for Older Adults

In 2022-2023, several provinces announced expansions to publicly funded health coverage for older adults. That continued in 2024-2025, with Saskatchewan, Québec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland and Labrador announcing some form of enhanced health coverage for older people. Most of the programs provide coverage for additional vaccines to prevent diseases, such as vaccines for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) or shingles, but Saskatchewan added coverage for diabetes monitoring equipment and supplies. Examples of expansions to publicly funded drug or medical supplies coverage include:

- Québec's allocation in the 2025 budget of \$269 million for preventive health programs, including extended vaccination and screening coverage for older adults
- New Brunswick's 2024 announcement of coverage for free RSV vaccine for people in vulnerable populations, such as people ages 60+ who live in long-term care, Indigenous persons aged 60+, and all older adults aged 75+
- The announcement in Saskatchewan's 2024 Throne Speech that the province would include blood glucose monitors and diabetes monitoring supplies in publicly funded coverage provided to older adults. Funding to implement the extended coverage was announced in Saskatchewan's 2025 Budget.

⁹ Eales J, Fast J, Duncan K, Keating N.: https://rapp.ualberta.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/49/2022/02/Family-caregiving-worth-97-billion_2022-02-20.pdf

Financial support for older adults

As mentioned above, policies and initiatives that were intended to support the financial stability of older adults were widely announced in 2024 and 2025. The emphasis on specific types of interventions changed compared to previous years, however. In 2020-2021 and again in 2022-2023, changes to both financial support benefits, such as pensions or income supplements, and tax credits or rebates for older adults became more widespread. That pattern changed in 2024-2025. More provinces or territories announced changes to financial benefits or pensions for older adults, but the number announcing tax credits or rebates decreased compared to the previous two years.

1. Income supports

Nine provinces or territories announced some form of change to income support programs for older adults in 2024-2025. Québec is the only province that provides a provincial pension instead of the Canada Pension Plan and the Québec government announced increases to the benefits paid to recipients. Other provinces and territories announced policies related to supplemental income programs. Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon and Northwest Territories all announced changes which increased benefits or the scope for eligibility of provincial income support programs for older adults. Examples of income supports include:

- In its 2024 budget, the New Brunswick government announced that it would continue the 2023 Low-Income Seniors' Affordability Supplement and make the \$200 payment available to eligible older adults in 2024. The budget also announced a proposed amendment to the province's Low-Income Seniors' Benefit. The change would increase the base amount paid to recipients from \$400 to \$600 and index the benefit value to the Consumer Price Index, starting in 2025. The amendment was implemented in 2025.
- Ontario announced in 2024 that its main income supplement for older adults, the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) benefit, would be indexed to the Consumer Price Index. The budget also stated that the eligibility threshold would be expanded, allowing an additional 100,000 Ontario older adults to qualify.

2. Tax rebates

While tax rebates and tax credits for older adults were announced in 2024-2025, new policies were less widely emphasized than in 2022-2023. Only Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia highlighted tax-based initiatives for older adults in their high-level policy statements. Several types of tax rebates or credits were mentioned. Manitoba announced general changes that would apply to any older adult filing taxes in the province, while New Brunswick and Nova Scotia announced changes that applied specifically for older adults who

have lower incomes. The Saskatchewan government announced both types of policies. Examples include:

- As part of the 2024 *Saskatchewan Affordability Act*, in 2025 Saskatchewan increased the amounts that older adults could claim through the Senior Supplementary Credit. The Senior Supplementary Credit amount was also indexed to the formula used to adjust taxation amounts and would increase over time.
- In 2024, the New Brunswick government amended the *New Brunswick Income Tax Act* by increasing the amount that eligible older adults can claim through the Low-Income Seniors Benefit and indexed the benefit amount to increase annually in accordance with the consumer price index.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba announced tax-based initiatives that were intended to support specific needs that older adults have, such home rental costs or caregiving.

- In the 2024 budget, Manitoba announced an increase to the Renters Affordability Tax Credit top-up amount for older adults to help cover costs of rental housing.
- The 2024 *Saskatchewan Affordability Act* included a 25 percent increase to the Caregiver Tax Credit available to families that support older parents who have physical or mental impairments.

Housing Initiatives

Four provinces or territories, British Columbia, Yukon, Manitoba and New Brunswick, announced initiatives in 2024-2025 to improve older adults' access to affordable housing. Some governments focused on financial policies or initiatives to help address the cost of housing for older adults. As mentioned above, Manitoba increased the Renters Affordability Tax Credit top-up amount for low-income older adults. Some jurisdictions increased rental support benefit amounts for older adults. For example:

- In 2025, British Columbia announced that changes to the Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) Program would provide rental supplements to an additional 1,600 older adults and would increase the average supplement received by 30 percent.

Other jurisdictions announced programs to create new low-cost housing spaces for older adults.

- The Manitoba government announced in its 2025 budget that it would invest in partnerships with several non-profit organizations to purchase and renovate buildings that would provide housing for low-income older adults.

Other Priorities

As in 2022-2023, the high-level provincial and territorial policy announcements related to services for older adults did not emphasize programs or initiatives focused on supporting the mental health of older adults, or on research funding. Several policy topics were emphasized small numbers of provinces or territories. Two jurisdictions, Alberta and Northwest Territories, announced elder abuse prevention initiatives. Manitoba announced the creation of an independent provincial Seniors Advocate to present issues that older adults face and make recommendations to the government. Leigh Anne Caron was appointed by the government of Manitoba on November 12, 2025, to be the province's first provincial Seniors Advocate. Attention on accessible transportation for older adults was limited, with Prince Edward Island providing funding in its 2024 budget to keep monthly transit passes priced at \$10 for older adults.

Summary

Priorities in 2024 and 2025 for policies intended to support Canadian older adults were similar to those identified in APPTA's 2023 report. The replacement of Justin Trudeau with Mark Carney as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada in early 2025 represented a shift at the federal level toward greater emphasis on finances and national security. That change corresponded with upheaval in the international political context, specifically the 2024 election of Donald Trump as president of the United States. In early 2025 he imposed tariffs on imports from Canada and threatened Canadian sovereignty, which created economic uncertainty and sparked patriotic responses across Canada^{10,11}. The federal government's 2025 Speech from the Throne was titled, "Building Canada Strong" and similar sentiments were expressed often in provincial and territorial announcements.

Given the emphasis on protecting the economy and maintaining growth, it is unsurprising that many jurisdictions announced increased financial supports for older adults. Investment in healthcare infrastructure was also a topic that featured more widely in policy documents in 2024-2025 than in previous years. In part, the emphasis on building healthcare infrastructure may have been related to the use of capital infrastructure construction projects as a method for providing stimulus to the economy. There was no corresponding increase in emphasis on health human resources and the number of jurisdictions announcing new health human resources initiatives or policies remained similar to previous years.

Policymakers in Canada announced policies or initiatives to reduce some of the costs that older adults pay. A growing number of jurisdictions announced expansions to health coverage for older adults, such as broader drug coverage, coverage for additional vaccinations, or coverage for diabetes monitors. The federal government and four provinces or territories also announced initiatives that were intended to increase the availability of affordable housing, or to provide rental supplements for older adults.

Overall, in 2024 and 2025 Canadian federal, provincial and territorial policy announcements about policies or initiatives to support the health and wellbeing of older adults focused primarily on improving financial security or reducing costs older people pay.

¹⁰ Government of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/international-trade-finance-policy/canadas-response-us-tariffs.html>

¹¹ Gillies, R.: <https://apnews.com/article/canada-trump-us-state-131dcff58a8f56116765f160d9f35460>

APPENDIX A: References by Jurisdiction

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