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Methodology: NIA's Interactive Inventory of Federal, Provincial, Territorial Government Priorities on Ageing

Supporting Older Canadians: An Interactive Inventory of Government Priorities on Ageing

This interactive policy tool makes it easy to explore how governments across Canada are supporting older adults. Through the interactive map, users can quickly see whether key policies, strategies, funding initiatives, and services exist across a range of ageing-related priorities at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels. Rather than providing an exhaustive inventory of every program, the tool offers a high-level snapshot of where governments are taking action, and where opportunities for future investment and policy development may remain.

Purpose

The ageing landscape is constantly evolving, and understanding where governments are taking action can help inform better policy decisions. This tool is designed to support evidence-informed advocacy, policy development, and program planning by bringing key government priorities together in one place. Whether you're a policymaker, researcher, service provider, advocate, or community organization, the tool provides a shared resource to explore current initiatives, identify emerging trends, and uncover opportunities for future action.

This tool is not designed for service navigation purposes on an individual level. For availability on what programs and services exist at the local level and their eligibility, it is recommended to reach out to 211 or local organizations that can assist.

How to Use This Tool

The indicators in this tool are designed to answer one simple question: Does this jurisdiction have a policy, program, strategy, or initiative in this area? They provide a high-level snapshot of where supports and government priorities exist, rather than evaluating how well individual initiatives are funded, implemented, or performing.

Exploring the tool is simple. Click on a policy area in the drop down menu and the map will populate whether the federal government and each province or territory has taken concrete action on the policy area. You can compare jurisdictions, explore the National Institute on Ageing's four policy pillars, and quickly identify where governments are investing and where opportunities for additional policy development or investment may remain.

Framework

The tool is organized using the National Institute on Ageing's four policy pillars:

1. Social Inclusion – Promoting the human rights, participation, and social well-being of older adults.
2. Ageing in the Right Place – Supporting accessible housing, community services, and care options that enable people to age where they choose.
3. Healthy Ageing – Protecting and improving access to health services and preventative health initiatives that meet the needs of older adults.
4. Income Adequacy – Supporting financial security and lifelong income for older Canadians.

Methodology

Information was collected between June 2025 and February 2026 through a review of publicly available federal, provincial, and territorial government sources. Policies, programs, funding initiatives, strategies, legislation, and official government announcements were reviewed and categorized according to the National Institute on Ageing's four policy pillars.

Inclusion Criteria

Initiatives were included if they:

- Were issued by a federal, provincial, or territorial government.
- Were publicly available.
- Were active, announced, or implemented during the review period.
- Explicitly targeted older adults or ageing-related priorities.

Exclusion Criteria

The tool does not include:

- Municipal or local government initiatives.
- Internal or non-public government documents.
- Programs intended for the general population without a clear focus on older adults.
- An exhaustive inventory of every service or program available within each jurisdiction.

Background

The indicators included in this tool were informed through engagement with 45 organizations and experts from across Canada's ageing sector. Participants represented community-based seniors' services, health care, elder abuse prevention, income security, research, and ageing policy.

Through a series of focus groups, participants helped:

- Validate the areas included in the scan.
- Identify emerging priorities and information gaps.
- Refine the indicators used to assess government priorities.
- Ensure the tool reflects issues that are meaningful and useful to the ageing sector.

This collaborative approach helped ensure the tool captures not only publicly available government information, but also the priorities identified by those working directly with older Canadians.

Validation Process

To improve the accuracy and completeness of the information, the draft inventory was shared with multiple government representatives and organizations supporting older adults in each province and territory for feedback.

Those who agreed to review (see list below) were asked to confirm that policies, programs, strategies, and initiatives were accurately represented and to identify any missing or outdated information.

This review process ensured that every province and territory was represented by at least one reviewer with jurisdiction-specific knowledge. Feedback was incorporated where appropriate to improve the accuracy and relevance of the tool. While every effort was made to validate the information with government officials, the tool remains a synthesis of publicly available government information and should not be considered an official government publication.

Important Considerations

This tool is intended to provide a high-level snapshot of government priorities related to ageing.

The presence of an indicator signifies that a jurisdiction has a relevant policy, program, strategy, funding initiative, or legislative framework in place. It should not be interpreted as a measure of the initiative's scope, quality, funding level, accessibility, or effectiveness. Likewise, the absence of an indicator does not

necessarily mean that no such policy, program or initiative exists; it may indicate that no dedicated or publicly identifiable initiative was found during the review period.

Government priorities evolve over time, and new programs, policies, or funding announcements may emerge after data collection. While every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate and current, this tool is based on publicly available information at the time of the analysis.

Users are encouraged to consult official government sources for the most up-to-date information. The National Institute on Ageing welcomes feedback regarding missing or updated information and will review and make corrections where appropriate.

Acknowledgements

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We wish to thank the 26 reviewers from every province and territory across the country who validated the data and provided input on the overall scope and direction of this project.

Reviewers:

Alberta

Beth Mansell, Provincial Social Prescribing Project Manager, Healthy Aging Alberta, United Way of Calgary and Area

British Colombia

Laura Kadowaki, Specialist, Research & Knowledge Mobilization, Community Impact & Investment - Healthy Aging, United Way BC

Manitoba

Connie Newman, Executive Director, Age Friendly Manitoba Initiative

New Brunswick

Norma Dubé, President, Association francophone des aînés et aînées du Nouveau-Brunswick

Erin Sparkes-Brewer, Social Worker Long Term Care/Disability Support Adult Protection (Fredericton) Social Development, Government of New Brunswick

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Kimberly Leonard, Chief Executive Officer, SeniorsNL

Mary Ennis, Coordinator and Private Consultant, SeniorsNL

Northwest Territories

Karen Willy, Executive Director, NWT Seniors' Society

Karin Bucher, Director, Ministry of Health and Social Services – Seniors and Continuing Care Services, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

Nova Scotia

Dawn Parks, Outreach and Communications Manager, Aging Well Nova Scotia

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Samanatha Baker, Corporate Policy Coordinator, Nova Scotia Health Authority

Nunavut

Review process currently in progress

Ontario

Marta C. Hajek, Chief Executive Officer, Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

Raza Mirza, Chief Operating Officer, Help Age Canada

Quebec

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Holly Schick, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM)

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