



## Alberta Council on Aging

working to improve the quality of life for older persons

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Block  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

February 4, 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

In reference to the supplemental mandate letter to Minister Schulte, Minister of Seniors, dated January 15, 2020:

“It is clear that this pandemic has disproportionately affected different communities throughout our country. Therefore, we must ensure our recovery includes all Canadians, with an emphasis on supporting those most affected. To this end, I expect that you will seek the advice and hear the perspectives of a diverse group of Canadians, in both official languages. Moreover, you will continue to rely on and develop meaningful relationships with civil society and stakeholders, including businesses of all sizes, organized labour, the broader public sector and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors across Canada.”

Alberta Council on Aging, a non-profit charitable organization for over 54 years, is working to improve the quality of life for older persons. Although it should not be, human rights appear to diminish with age and disability. As you know, older adults living in long term care settings have been disproportionately affected during the pandemic. We respect your public expression of remorse. We applaud the strong and empathetic message that there will be a **new ‘better’ in terms of the care for older persons**. Although the grave situation in the care facilities was years in the making, we respect your sincere regard for the marginalized and the loss of lives. **We too want to be part of the solution**. We have included our position paper on long term care, which was developed to express our grief and to convey a clear message that we need national leadership on care of the old. We do not want to continue to fix the broken extended care system, rather transform to a more humane and person-centered way of living out our final last years. **May we talk more about this?**

We want to thank government for financial support through the New Horizon for Seniors grant program which has allowed us to revitalize an existing age-friendly community program *Living Strong (in spite of Covid-19)*. We have been able to offer members and the general public someone to talk to as well as a means to stay positive, strong and healthy through easy-to-use program and materials. You can read more about this in the newsletter where the position paper is also housed. Thank you for your support and compassion for older adults. **May we aim to highlight International Day of Older Persons on October 1, 2021, together with a lead from Prime Minister and Minister of Seniors through the non-profits and senior serving sector?** Sincere thanks for providing a sense of calm and hope in this very turbulent and troubling time.

Sincerely,

President Ron Rose

cc Minister of Seniors, Honourable Deb Schulte  
Reference [ACA News](#) Winter 2021 [Living Strong program and booklet](#)