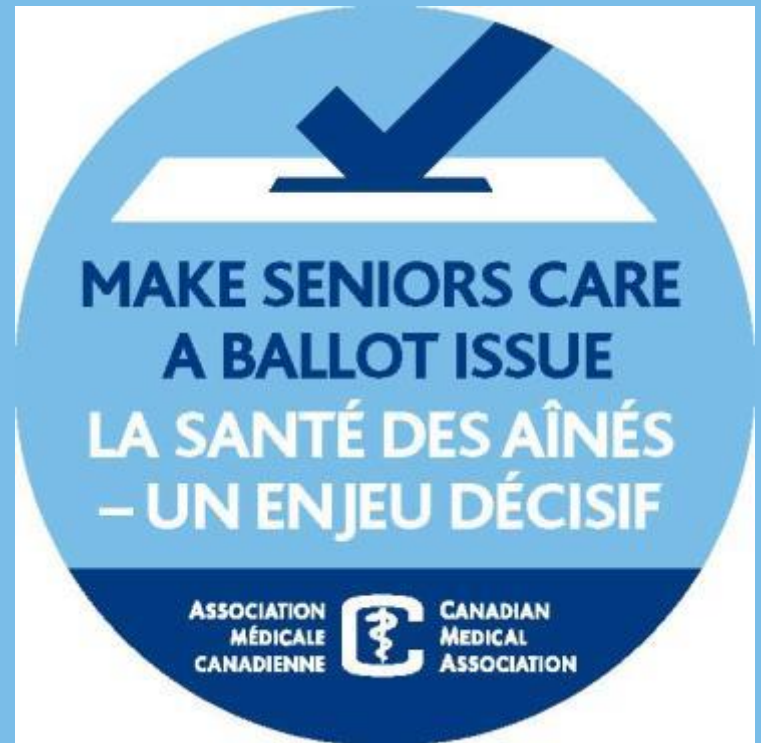


# Regional Geriatric Program of Eastern Ontario Annual General Meeting

Steve Wharry,  
Director, Communications

Oct. 24, 2014



# Aging well is a triumph!



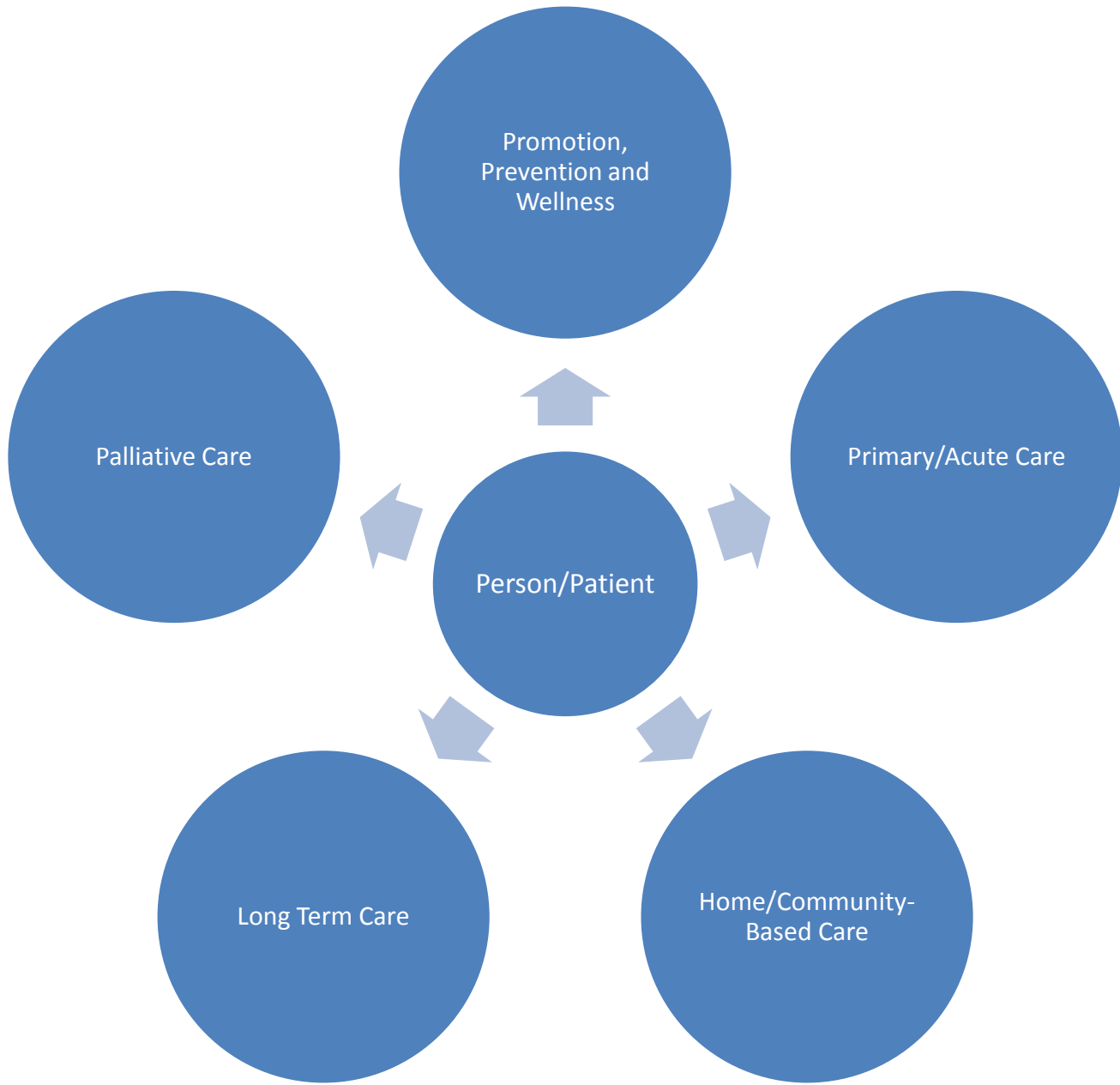
Make seniors health care a ballot issue in the next federal election.



Secure commitment from leaders of all national political parties to implement a national strategy for seniors care involving all three levels of government with Ottawa taking a leadership role.

## The Realities of Canada's Aging Population

- 14.4% of Canadians are 65 and account for almost half of all health and social care spending.
- Canada's older population is set to almost double over the next 20 years – while the 85 and older population is set to quadruple.
- This a challenge, but also a chance to get our whole health care system *right*.



## What are the elements of a seniors strategy?

- Address social determinants, reduce poverty.
- Encourage investment in affordable housing.
- Invest in health promotion, prevention for older Canadians.
- Better primary care, including house calls.
- Prioritize current & future investments in home, community & long-term care
- More support for informal caregivers like family members caring for seniors at home.

# NATIONAL REPORT ON HEALTH CARE: HEALTH CONCERNS LOOM LARGE FOR CANADIANS NEARING RETIREMENT

Source: Ipsos Reid

## HEALTH CARE CONCERNS



**81%** of older Canadians are concerned with the quality of health care they can expect in the future

**78%** of older Canadians are concerned with having access to high quality home and long-term care in their retirement years.

## FINANCIAL CONCERNS



While **68%** of older Canadians have supplemental insurance today, only **50%** say they could afford expenses not covered by Medicare.



**76%** of those who haven't retired yet are concerned about affording uninsured services.

## RETIREMENT CONCERNS

Canadians aged 45 to 74 express lower levels of confidence that:

- long-term health care facilities in their area can meet the needs of the elderly population
- there are enough services in their area to help seniors live at home longer



**86%** of working Canadians have concerns about health care in retirement. Concerns drop to **69%** among retired Canadians.



## CARE GIVER CONCERNS



Almost **75%** of care givers agree that caring for an aging loved one conflicts with other personal and work responsibilities.

More than **60%** of care givers experience a high level of stress from being a care giver.

## STRATEGIC CONCERNS



**95%** of Canadians aged 45 and over want a national strategy on seniors care.

HealthCareTransformation.ca

#seniorshealth

# Political Milestones

- Seniors care gaining political traction.
- Unanimous MP support for palliative strategy in House of Commons resolution.
- MPs holding seniors care roundtables across Canada.
- Ottawa, provinces and territories agree to discuss national dementia strategy.



HEALTH CARE  
*Transformation*

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Facts

## These are the facts on seniors health care in Canada

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*Approx. 1 million Cdns receive home care at any given time - 80% are seniors #seniorshealth @CIHI\_ICIS*

Canadian Institute for Health Information

SHARE THIS FACT



*Making more long-term beds and home care assistance available to seniors could save up to \$2.3 billion a year. #seniorshealth*

Canadian Medical Association

SHARE THIS FACT



*93% of Canadians believe we need a panCanadian strategy for seniors health care #seniorshealth*

Canadian Medical Association

*14% of Canada's pop is over 65 and will rise to 25% in 2033. Yet there is no ntl seniors care strategy. #seniorshealth*

Canadian Medical Association

*@AlzSociety predicts: By 2031 1.4 million Cdns will have dementia. We need a ntl #seniorshealth care strategy.*

Alzheimer Society

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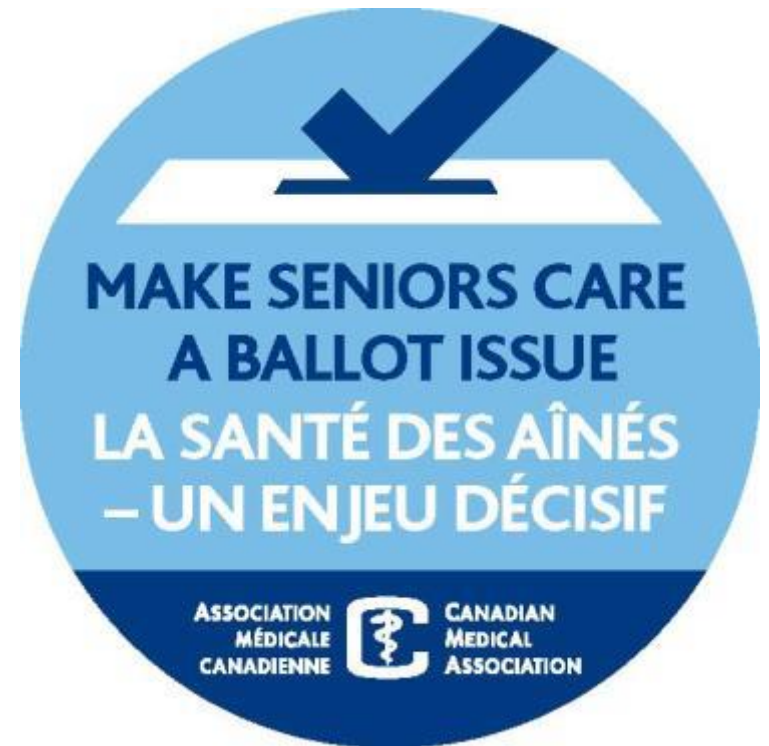
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- What does improving seniors care mean to you?
- What is working in your community?
- How can we build on successes?
- How should the federal government help address the pressures of an aging population?





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