



Event Details

- Webinar Date:** October 1, 2020
- Time:** 11:30am ET | 9:30am MT | 8:30am PT | Duration: 90 mins
- Watch here:** Register [Zoom](#) | Stream live on [Facebook](#) | See recording on [YouTube](#)
- About the event:** To celebrate Canada's 30th anniversary of National Seniors Day, CanAge and HelpAge Canada are pleased to invite you to join our Expert Roundtable Discussion on 'How to Make Canada More Age-Inclusive'.
- Audience Q&A:** Submit your questions to webinars@canage.ca
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Agenda

- Welcome** Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO CanAge
- Métis Welcome** Kerry Baisley, CanAge Fellow
- Honoured Guest** The Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors
- Guest Presenter** Vickery Bowles, City Librarian, Toronto Public Library
- Roundtable Discussion with Moderator Cynthia Mulligan**
- Expert Panel**
- The Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors
 - Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO CanAge
 - Gregor Sneddon, Executive Director of HelpAge Canada
 - Greg Shaw, Director International & Corporate Relations for the International Federation on Ageing
 - Margaret Gillis, President of the International Longevity Centre Canada
 - Kahir Lalji, Executive Director, United Way Southern Interior BC & Provincial Director of Population Health, United Way of the Lower Mainland
 - Alex Mihailidis, CEO and Scientific Co-Director of AGE-WELL
- Followed by Audience Q&A**

BIOGRAPHIES

Host



Cynthia Mulligan

Journalist

Cynthia Mulligan is an accomplished journalist who has worked in Toronto for more than 25 years. She has mastered many skills, including shooting, writing, reporting and anchoring. Her most recent awards include an RTDNA for her coverage of the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris.

Cynthia was there alone, shooting intimate interviews on her iPhone, exploring how people were coping with the aftermath and captured their fear as a stampede suddenly broke out at a vigil for victims.

She also won an RTDNA in 2017 for her series on Transgender Surgery in Bangkok. Cynthia shot, wrote and produced the story of Danica Rain, a transgender woman who became the first person in Ontario to travel to Thailand for gender confirmation surgery and have it covered by the government.

Cynthia has also been published in Maclean's Magazine, Canada's only national news magazine.

Cynthia received an Edward R Murrow award for her series on Kicking Cancer, a first-person account of what it is like to suddenly be diagnosed with cancer and the lengthy emotional process of treatment.

Cynthia's current focus is politics, with an emphasis on investigative journalism. She is also a public speaker for a number of charities, including the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and the Run for the Cure.

Métis Welcome



Kerry Baisley

**CanAge Fellow and Consultant in
Patient Relations and Long-Term Care**

Kerry specializes in relations between patients/residents, family members and health care practitioners. In 35 years, Kerry's career has ranged from a Social Development Officer in the Yukon to a Director of Client Relations and Risk Management with Vancouver Coastal Health. He has extensive front line experience in Long Term Care Social Work. He is a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach and a member of the Metis Nation of British Columbia. He was the first Manager of Health Care Decisions with the Public Guardian and Trustee of BC. At the PGT he played a major role in developing policies for Substitute Health Care Decision Making. Kerry is a past Board Member of the 127 Society for Housing in downtown Vancouver. He is a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach and a member of the Metis Nation of British Columbia. Since retiring from full time employment he has returned to Vancouver Coastal Health to work with staff and families on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Honoured Guest and Expert



The Honourable Deb Schulte **Minister of Seniors**

The Honourable Deb Schulte was first elected as the Member of Parliament for King–Vaughan in 2015.

Minister Schulte is an accomplished community leader who served as a former and regional councillor for the City of Vaughan. In 2017, her dedication to the diversity of her community was highlighted when her Private Member's Motion was passed, marking every June as Italian Heritage Month in Canada.

A local advocate for most of her life, Minister Schulte was appointed to the Greenbelt Task Force and served on the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing and preserving one of southern Ontario's most distinct landscapes. Minister Schulte is a long-time member of the Humber Watershed Alliance, now known as the Regional Watershed Alliance.

Minister Schulte has a degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from Princeton University, and 22 years of engineering and business experience with Bombardier Aerospace, now known as Bombardier Aviation.

Minister Schulte lives in Vaughan with her husband, Dave, their two sons.

Source:

<https://pm.gc.ca/en/cabinet/honourable-deb-schulte>

Guest Presenter



Vickery Bowles

**City Librarian, Toronto Public
Library**

Vickery Bowles is the City Librarian at Toronto Public Library (TPL), a library system serving 2.9 million residents through its 100 branches and online network. She believes passionately in the difference public libraries make in the lives of individuals, in communities and cities. Vickery is currently working to advance TPL's new strategic plan, with a focus on new service models, digital literacy and inclusion, workforce development and innovation. Vickery is Immediate Past Chair of the Urban Libraries Council headquartered in Washington, DC, sits on the boards of the Canadian Research Knowledge Network and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries, and is a member of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council.

Expert Panel



Laura Tamblyn Watts

CEO CanAge

Laura Tamblyn Watts is a lawyer, advocate and author. Her work focuses on law, aging, abuse, accessibility, law reform, governance and knowledge mobilization. She has previously served as Chief Public Policy Officer at CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons) for the past two years and National Director of the Canadian Centre for Elder Law. She currently teaches at the University of Toronto, where she is also a Fellow of the Institute for Lifecourse and Aging. She was awarded the 2020 Community Leadership in Justice Fellowship by the Law Foundation of Ontario.

Laura is an Executive Member of the Canadian Bar Association's National Elder Law section and a Board member of a number of organizations including the National Initiative for Care of the Elderly, PACE Independent Living, Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario, and an incoming member of the Investment Industry Regulators Organizations of Canada (IIROC).

**Gregor Sneddon****Executive Director of HelpAge Canada**

Gregor was appointed as Executive Director of HelpAge Canada in 2019, formerly serving as a priest with the Anglican Church of Canada. Gregor's background in theology and serving the marginalized and underprivileged has fed his passion to challenge social convention on human worth and to work for justice, freedom, and dignity for all people. HelpAge Canada is a Canadian charity exclusively dedicated to providing support and assistance to seniors in Canada and internationally since 1975, a founding partner of HelpAge International. HelpAge Canada was the first pan-Canadian COVID-19 responders for Seniors funding emergency relief through sixty local community partners across Canada.

**Greg Shaw**

Director International and Corporate Relations for the International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

Greg Shaw has a science and health administration background and is the Director, International and Corporate Relations for the IFA. Prior to joining the IFA he held senior management positions within the Australian Government in the Department Health and Ageing. He has held appointments with the Ontario Securities Commission Senior Expert Advisory Committee (SERC), the Toronto Police Service Community Advisory Committee and the City of Toronto Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care & Services.

His earlier work focused on policy development and program implementation for the Australian aged care reforms, quality assurance and supporting the aged care needs of rural and remote communities throughout northern Australia. An advocate of the aged care needs of marginalized community groups in the 1990s, he worked with many Aboriginal and ethnic communities resulting in the establishment of aged care homes and community aged care services specifically designed and targeted for those communities.

Since joining the IFA in 2003 he has had responsibility for the development of the Building Capacity in Health Care Programs in Africa, worked closely with the South African Human Rights Commission to establish an older person's forum in that country and in 2010 worked with the Government of Mauritius on the establishment of an Observatory on Ageing.

He represents the IFA at the United Nations, works closely with the government and has responsibility for IFA elder abuse initiatives. Elder Abuse initiatives have included the development of educational toolkits targeted towards youth, an International Forum on Sexual Safety of Older Women and in 2013 lead a high-level meeting to examine issues of financial abuse of Canadian seniors.

Greg has worked with other Civil Society Organizations on the Global Thematic Consultations on Population Dynamics (Post-2015 Development Agenda) to ensure the needs of older people are recognized. A current priority for 2020-21 is a possible IFA Summit and Global Think Tank on Long-term Care Design and Standards - Best Practice to Mitigate Pandemics Post COVID-19.



Margaret Gillis

President of the International Longevity Centre Canada (ILC)

Margaret Gillis is the founding President of the International Longevity Centre Canada, part of a global alliance of 16 Centres dedicated to the needs and rights of older people. An award winning executive and innovative leader, Margaret played a key role in establishing the Age-friendly Community program in Canada and internationally, this program is now in over 900 Canadian communities and 26 countries worldwide. Other career highlights include a joint government project to protect seniors in disasters including a policy paper presented at the UN. Margaret's work was acknowledged by Her Majesty the Queen through an Award for her international contribution to older people.

Margaret has strong credentials in regard to human rights, working with and speaking at the UN General Assembly on behalf of older people and as Canadian Delegate to the Organization of American States, Institute for Children. She is currently the Chair of the National Advocacy Working Group at the Global Alliance of the Rights of Older People. With a background in health promotion, protection and programming for the aged, women and children, Margaret is committed to improving the rights of older people. Margaret holds a BA in History (Queen's 81) and a Master's in Public Administration (Carleton 82).



Kahir Lalji

Executive Director, United Way Southern Interior BC & Provincial Director of Population Health, United Way of the Lower Mainland

Kahir Lalji is the Provincial Director of Population Health with the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the Executive Director of the United Way Southern Interior BC. Working at a programmatic and policy level Kahir takes a life-course approach in the provision of accessible services to support a good quality of life for all people - always attempting to ensure the representation of traditionally underserved populations.

Kahir is a Gerontologist with a Masters of Gerontology from Simon Fraser University, and also has a fellowship in developmental leadership and evaluation. With 15+ years of non-profit leadership experience, Kahir has extensive experience in community development initiatives enabling him to effectively facilitate engagement with various knowledge user groups with which he has developed ongoing relationships. He has curated effective, longstanding partnerships with all levels of Government(s), Civil Society organizations, Nonprofits and others.

Kahir is on the Advisory Board of Aging 2.0, the President of the Board of Directors for British Columbia Original Minds Association and a Member on the Aga Khan Health Board for Canada.

**Dr. Alex Mihailidis****CEO and Scientific Co-Director of AGE-WELL**

Alex Mihailidis is the Associate Vice President for International Partnerships at the University of Toronto and the Barbara G. Stymiest Research Chair in Rehabilitation Technology at the University of Toronto and Toronto Rehab Institute. He is also the Scientific Director and CEO of the AGE-WELL Network of Centres of Excellence, which focuses on the development of new technologies and services for older adults. He is a Professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy (U of T) and in the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering (U of T), with a cross appointment in the Department of Computer Science (U of T). He has been conducting research in the field of pervasive computing and intelligent systems in health for the past 16 years, having published over 200 journal papers, conference papers, and abstracts in this field. He has specifically focused on the development of intelligent home systems for elder care and wellness, technology for children with autism, and adaptive tools for nurses and clinical applications. Dr. Mihailidis is also very active in the rehabilitation engineering profession, currently as a Past-President for RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America). He was also named a Fellow of RESNA in 2014, which is one of the highest honours within this field of research and practice.

This event is presented by:



About CanAge

CanAge is an independent national nonprofit organization that educates, empowers and mobilizes people on the issues that matter most to older Canadians. As one of Canada's national seniors advocacy organizations, and a trusted voice for aging Canadians, CanAge brings the reputation, experience, and reach on aging from the perspective of seniors and those who support them. CanAge works collaboratively across Canada with corporate, nonprofit organizations, the media, and government to amplify seniors issues, influence policy and effect change. Visit www.canage.ca

Stay in touch:

- Become a member for one year for free: CanAge.ca/join
- Sign up for our free newsletter: CanAge.ca/newsletter
- Follow us on Social Media: [@CanAgeSeniors](https://twitter.com/CanAgeSeniors)
- For future events visit: CanAge.ca/webinars
- Send us an email: info@canage.ca

About HelpAge Canada

HelpAge Canada is a federally incorporated Canadian charity whose mission is to work in partnership with others to improve and maintain the quality of life of older persons and their communities in Canada and around the world since 1975. We are a founding member of a global network of Organizations under the umbrella of HelpAge International that promotes the right of all older people to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives.

Stay in touch:

- Website: www.helpagecanada.ca
- Twitter: [@HelpAgeCA](https://twitter.com/HelpAgeCA)
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