

CanAge Connections

CanAge is Canada's national advocacy organization for older adults. We work to advance the rights and well-being of Canadians as we age in order to live vibrant and connected lives. This is the inaugural issue of our monthly newsletter.



Welcome!

I am thrilled that our volunteer team has launched the first CanAge Connections newsletter. We at CanAge are excited to share what we have achieved for Canadian seniors while working remotely from different provinces.

- CanAge has been invited to meetings with high-level federal and provincial politicians to discuss necessary changes to the long-term care sector and the need for equal access to immunization for older Canadians. You can read all about this in the Government Relations section.
- In June, CanAge was invited to present at the Senate of Canada Committee, specifically, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to examine and report about the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We created helpful toolkits and factsheets that help families when visiting long-term care communities. Visit CanAge.ca/resources.
- Together with our friends and partners CanAge hosted a national panel discussion about World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15). The subject of the online presentation was *Is Social Isolation Elder Abuse?* This webinar is available at CanAge.ca in the What's New Section.

These are only some of the things we have been working on in the past three months. For more information about how CanAge is working to improve the lives of Canadians, visit CanAge.ca.

All my best,



Laura Tamblyn Watts, LLB
CEO of CanAge

Government Relations

Where are we now?

CanAge is proud to be a non-partisan, pan-Canadian organization. Since June 2020, CanAge has been connecting with representatives from federal, provincial, and territorial parties across Canada. Through these discussions, we shared some of the most pressing issues for seniors, and learned what is important in their jurisdictions.

Federal Highlights

Meetings with the Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors and the Honourable Patty Hadju, Minister of Health resulted in discussions regarding many topics including:

- long-term care;
- violence prevention, senior abuse and advocacy;
- the duty to report abuse and how to improve the process by which financial institutions report financial abuse;
- the importance of uptake of vaccinations for all older adults;
- the urgent need for the Federal Government to buy enough supply of the NACI-recommended vaccination for all provinces and territories; and,
- the need for federal assistance for and intervention in long-term care.

Provincial Highlights

CanAge has met with MLAs across the country from major political parties. Discussion points have included:

- surgical wait times;
- violence and abuse of seniors;
- workplace inclusion of seniors;
- the revamping of long-term care;
- lessons learned from BC indigenous communities' handling of COVID-19;
- intergenerational relationships;
- the importance of technology and transportation in preventing social isolation;
- visits to residents in long-term care and how to be safe while fulfilling the need for social interaction; and
- the alarming number of seniors who do not have a single emergency contact.

We look forward to furthering our discussions with government representatives of all parties across Canada in order to inform their priorities and advocate for the voices of Canadian seniors.

In the News

The dire conditions in long-term care homes across the country have captured the attention of leading journalists. CanAge's President and CEO, Laura Tamblyn Watts is at the front and centre of what changes need to be made and what role policy plays in improving the lives of older Canadians.

The Toronto Star

Terms for Ontario's commission on nursing homes prompt renewed calls for public inquiry: Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO of CanAge, a seniors' advocacy group, said the trend in long-term care has been shifting to "a person-centred, emotion-focused model" of care.

[Read more at CanAge.ca/media](https://www.canage.ca/media)

Breakfast TV Vancouver

Staffing issues in BC long-term care homes: BC care homes looking to recruit laid-off hospitality workers. Laura Tamblyn Watts sees positive trends.

[Read more at CanAge.ca/media](https://www.canage.ca/media)

CTV

Study on long-term care: "What's really stark is that 18% of all infections were in long-term care, but 81% of all deaths. If that isn't an indictment, I don't know what is," says Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO of CanAge.

[Read more at CanAge.ca/media](https://www.canage.ca/media)

For full media coverage visit [CanAge.ca/media](https://www.canage.ca/media)

CanAge Community Spotlight



Meet Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks

Vanguard, Scholar, Hero

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is celebrated on June 15th each year. That's thanks to its founder, Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks, whose personal and professional work in this area both inspires and challenges peers to use tools such as social media, research and education to raise awareness and enact change.

Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks is a Professor Emerita at Ryerson University. Her research includes elder abuse work in faith communities and raising awareness within intergenerational relationships. In 1991, Dr. Podnieks conducted the first national survey about elder abuse in Canada leading to a further understanding of the extent of how poorly older adults are treated in Canada and around the world.

She also founded the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse Ontario, two seminal organizations that continue to make a difference today. In June of 2020, Dr. Podnieks was awarded the inaugural *Elizabeth Podnieks Award for Elder Rights in Canada*, a new award from CanAge to be presented each year in recognition of extensive work in the field of elder abuse. The award was presented to Dr. Podnieks by The Honourable Deb Shulte, Canada's National Minister of Seniors, during an online panel discussion titled "Is Social Isolation Elder Abuse?"

Dr. Podnieks other distinctions include:

- Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal
- Order of Canada
- National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) National Rosalie Wolf Award (twice)

We are so pleased to have Dr. Podnieks as part of our CanAge community!



CanAge Tip

Help reduce social isolation by checking in with seniors in your neighbourhood regularly.

DR. ELIZABETH PODNIEKS AWARD FOR ELDER RIGHTS IN CANADA

This inaugural award is presented to

DR. ELIZABETH PODNIEKS

for her tremendous contributions in the field of aging studies and elder abuse awareness and prevention.

June 15, 2020
DATE


Laura Tamblin Watts
CEO, CanAge

CanAge.

We'd love to get your feedback! Tell us what you liked in this issue and what you'd like to read about in upcoming newsletters at newsletter@CanAge.ca.

CanAge Fellows Thought Leadership Program



The CanAge Fellows Thought Leadership Program is a selected group of distinguished professionals from a variety of fields coming together to provide information, education and guidance on issues that are important to Canadians as they age.

Kim Grier, Founder, Managing Director at Grier Dementia Training and CanAge Fellow, has developed a new resource to assist with caring for people living with dementia. 'THREE ABOUT ME' is a fast and easy way to help caregivers get to know a person with dementia, with whom they are interacting and caring for.

Download 'THREE ABOUT ME' for free at dementiatraining.ca.



Events and Resources

Visit CanAge.ca/webinars and CanAge.ca/resources.

You will find the latest information on upcoming events as well as tools and resources our team is working on.



You Asked, We Answered

Q.

I am concerned about a loved one who doesn't seem to be getting the care they used to, and they seem to be in decline. Where can I go to find information about elder abuse?

A.

Elder abuse reporting mechanisms vary across the country. The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (CNPEA) has a website that can be accessed <https://cnpea.ca>. Once there you can find support services for each province and territory. Or you can also visit the Government of Canada's website to find services and support in your province or territory. Go to canada.ca and search for "Elder Abuse Awareness"; or call 1-800-622-6232.



Have a question for CanAge? Submit it via newsletter@CanAge.ca.