

New report by leading seniors' organization scores Yukon a 'C' on vaccinating seniors: "most improved" in Canada

CanAge is releasing the second edition of its "vaccine report card", scoring each province and territory on their efforts to vaccinate older adults—Government of Yukon shows biggest improvement in Canada

For immediate release

TORONTO ON, Jan 31—CanAge, Canada's National Seniors' Advocacy Organization has released its second 'cross-country report card on adult vaccination in Canada'. The groundbreaking report, updated annually, assigns each province and territory a letter grade on how effective they are in vaccinating seniors against preventable diseases, using a data-driven scoring rubric. The Government of Yukon scored an overall grade of C, drastically increased from last year's score of F, due to major improvements in vaccine funding to protect seniors against seasonal flu and shingles. The territory saw the biggest bump in score in the report.

"The Government of Yukon deserves recognition for taking decisive action to protect seniors this year," says Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO of CanAge. "The territory not only funded both seniors-specific flu shots and the recommended shingles vaccine, it also significantly improved public education and outreach. Other parts of the country should follow Yukon's lead on how to attack a problem from multiple angles for maximum impact."

The report shows that the Government of Yukon now fully funds the high-dose flu shot for everyone over 65, and is one of only three jurisdictions in Canada to cover the recommended shingles vaccine—ensuring the territory's people over 50, who make up 35% of the total population, have the best available protection. The territory is also overhauling its publicly-available online information about immunization and is engaging rural communities to encourage vaccine confidence and uptake. "The Government of Yukon's commitment to preventive health is commendable, especially given the inherent challenges with health care delivery in the territory compounded with the impacts of COVID-19," notes Tamblyn Watts.

The 2022 edition of 'Adult Vaccination in Canada: Cross-Country Report Card' is available for download now.

Regional media releases summarizing the findings for each province and territory are <u>available</u> on the CanAge website.



About CanAge

<u>CanAge is Canada's National Seniors' Advocacy Organization</u>, working to improve the lives of older adults through advocacy, policy, and community engagement. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization and backed by a broad pan-Canadian membership base. <u>Find out more.</u>

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