Addressing the Needs of Canada’s Aging Population

Canadian Medical Association

National Pensioners Federation
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- Conflict of Interest: None
A major success story – with implications

% Percentage of Seniors in 2013

% Percentage of Seniors in 2036
What these figures don’t tell us…

- The 85+ year old group will quadruple!

- What does this mean for the health care system?

  - For example, consider the rates of hospitalization for congestive heart failure:
    - 387 per 100,000 population for those age 65 to 74;
    - 2,240 per 100,000 population for those age 85 and older;
What these figures don’t tell us… (con’t)

• Per person spending for seniors increases with age:
  • $6,368 for those age 65 to 69;
  • $8,545 for those 70 to 74;
  • $11,692 for those 75 to 79;
  • $21,054 for those 80 and older.

(CIHI Health Expenditures, 2012)
Our health care system has not adapted to the successful aging of Canadians

- Hospital-centric system:
  - Limited support for home care and caregivers.
  - Not a true community care system.
Our health care system has not adapted to the successful aging of Canadians (con’t)

- Hospitals have become the default setting for care.

- Hospitals are also the most expensive places to provide care:
  - Hospital: $1,000.00 per day
  - Long-term care: $130.00 per day
  - Home care: $55.00 per day
How does this affect Canadians in real time?

- Alternative Level of Care (ALC) crisis:
  
  ➢ 15% of hospital beds are ALC
  
  ➢ 3 million ALC bed days per year cost $2.6 billion (wasted)
  
  ➢ Hospital bed gridlock
    - Impacts on access to care and wait times for Canadian of all ages
Better seniors care means better care for everyone

- Seniors care accounts for almost 50% of health care budgets
- This impacts funding available to other areas of health care
  - This will impact access to health care for Canadians of all ages
  - This will impact persons in the workforce who also have to provide care
  - 37% of the work force is taking care of a relative (Stats Can)
What can we learn from Denmark?

- **Spending on home care:**
  - Canada: 0.24% of our GDP
  - Denmark: 1.16% of GDP (5X higher)

- **Spending on long-term care:**
  - Similar in Canada & Denmark: almost a full percentage point
Better seniors care means better care for everyone

- Basic math tells us our current model is **not** sustainable.
- If we want to save universal health care we have to change the way we provide care to seniors:
  - more coordinated;
  - less wasteful;
  - less costly settings;
  - A more community centered health care system;
  - **built around the needs of seniors not around the needs of institutions.**
We need a community-based system built around the seniors and their families
• wellness and prevention;
• primary care;
• home care and community support;
• acute and specialty care;
• long-term care;
• palliative care.
Canadians want a national seniors strategy

A Nanos poll commissioned by the CMA in key ridings demonstrated:

- Only 23% of respondents thought Ottawa was ready for the future health care needs of our aging population.

- 87% supported the need for a national seniors strategy.

- Almost 6 in 10 said they would switch parties if their current political party failed to make seniors a priority in the next federal election campaign.
www.DemandAPlan.ca

Join the over 25,000 Canadians who have added their voice to CMA’s campaign!
See what the federal parties are planning with respect to health care and ask questions

- Go to www.demandaplan.ca
  - Look at the Promise Tracker
- Go to the ‘Take Action’ tab
  - Select ‘Write to your MP’
CMA’s desired outcomes…

- Commitment to a national seniors strategy;
- First Ministers’ Meeting held early in new mandate;
- Implementation of national seniors strategy by 2019.
Discussion questions

• What does improving seniors care mean to you?

• What’s working in your community? What’s not working?

• What can your organization do?