



## SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

### INFORMATION BULLETIN

June 1, 2026

## AGEIST OPINION PIECE PUBLISHED IN THE GLOBE AND MAIL ENTITLED:

### **As Canada faces crippling debt, it must do the unpopular thing and cut elderly benefits**

**The government can reduce its spending while better targeting those  
genuinely in need**

**Grady Munro and Jake Fuss  
The Globe and Mail**

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*This is an open letter to the authors of this opinion piece by Dr. Patricia Spindel, Chair of Seniors for Social Action Ontario, acquainting them with the realities facing many older adults.*

*If you would also like to express your "opinion" to Mr. Fuss and Mr. Grady, here are their e-mail addresses. And please copy David Walmsely, the Editor of the Globe and Mail.*

*They need to hear from us!*

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Good morning Mr. Fuss and Mr. Grady,

I am the Chair of Seniors for Social Action Ontario, a non-profit social advocacy organization in Ontario with over 2000 members. All of our policy, research, and public education work is done by volunteers in their 70's, 80's, and 90's. We receive no funding from government, corporations, or foundations.

I was frankly appalled at the cruelty and ignorance of your opinion piece in the Globe and Mail today. You focused on income, with apparently no understanding of the reality of what older adults are going through in Canada today.

Every day I receive e-mails from SSAO members, who you would consider to have benefits that are too high, struggling. Why? Because of EXPENSES. There are significant expenses that come with growing old. They are paying up to \$15,000.00 a month for private home care because Canada does not have a universal Home Care Program. They are paying huge amounts of money to renovate their homes and condos to make them accessible so that they can have a shower, or get up the stairs. They are paying out of pocket for medications that provincial health plans do not cover. They are paying for expensive supplies to deal with a multitude of health conditions. If they are still in their own homes they are paying for contractors to cut their lawns, shovel their snow, or help maintain their gardens. Some in rural areas are paying for private transportation if they have to get to a medical appointment or go shopping. Some are paying out of pocket fees for primary care offered by nurse practitioners if they have no access to a family doctor.

All of this comes out of their Old Age Pensions and CPP if they have no private pensions. And even if they do, their expenses often overwhelm them. If they are fortunate enough to hold stocks, and many are not, they are subject to the whims of an increasingly volatile market.

Thousands live in retirement homes where they can be paying \$5000 - \$8000 a month. We get e-mails from people who are desperate because they are running out of money to pay these fees and their homes are gone - sold to help cover their monthly expenses. They are concerned about becoming homeless.

There are many older women - widows - struggling to get by on even the maximum old age pension. Some did not work and stayed home to raise children and maintain their homes - often at the insistence of their husbands. It was another time that you will not even begin to understand.

Did you give any thought whatsoever to these realities when you wrote such a cruel and ageist piece? Would you have written a piece targeting Indigenous People who also receive considerable benefits from the Federal government, seeing it as a way to reduce the deficit?

It is this level of ignorance of old people's reality in this country by younger people like yourselves, who should have more compassion since you will also be old one day, that is causing older people to feel marginalized and hurt.

Something has sure changed in the way old people are seen and treated by the young. My generation (and I am 78) respected the sacrifices and contributions of our parents and grandparents. Your generation, given the content of your opinion piece and lack of understanding, appear to have nothing but contempt for those who came before you, and see us as a convenient target for budget cuts.

The harm you have done with this opinion piece is immeasurable. I am shocked that the Globe and Mail would have even considered publishing it.

Most older people will simply suffer this in silence. But please know your cruelty has hurt a lot of old people today.

Dr. Patricia Spindel, Chair, Seniors for Social Action Ontario