



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

IMPORTANT FEDERAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON AGING IN PLACE AND IN COMMUNITY

August 25, 2026

The Canadian Institute of Health Research Institute of Aging has today announced the Aging in the Community Research Initiative.

For a very long time, researchers have focused on institutional care, and this has meant that innovative community-based approaches to support aging in place have often not had enough research evidence for governments to pay attention and support them.

This has meant an inordinate amount of government funding has been directed to the institutional rather than the community sector.

Seniors for Social Action Ontario is very pleased to see this new research initiative to study innovative community programs and approaches to aging in place.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DR. JANE RYLETT, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF CIHR'S INSTITUTE OF AGING

Special thanks to Dr. Jane Rylett for her support of this initiative and understanding of its importance. Seniors for Social Action Ontario had communicated earlier this year with Dr. Rylett about the importance of this kind of research.

Her introduction to this initiative underscores her understanding of the need:

“Canada’s population is aging rapidly. Approximately 90% of older Canadians live in the community rather than in institutional care, and most wish to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

However, many older people face barriers to aging safely and with dignity in the communities of their choice. Among the most significant challenges are social isolation, loneliness, ageism, insufficient resources, and limited access to health and social care.

Older people, community partners, researchers, and governments have all emphasized the need for stronger supports that enable older Canadians to age well in their homes and communities.

To help address these challenges, the CIHR Institute of Aging (CIHR-IA) is pleased to announce the Aging in the Community Research Initiative.”

Here is information sent out by CIHR on this important research initiative:
<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/54785.html>

Aging in the Community Research Initiative

The *Aging in the Community Research Initiative* is a five-year (2026-2031) strategic research initiative designed to strengthen the evidence base for approaches that support older persons to age safely, independently, and with dignity in the place of their choosing. The initiative encompasses funding opportunities with targeted investments in evaluation, data analysis, and implementation science, as well as a broader set of complementary strategies, including leveraging strategic priority areas within CIHR programs, knowledge mobilization, and partnerships, to increase scope of the initiative and drive impact across policy and health and social care systems.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the Aging in the Community Research Initiative:

- Produce data to **support equitable, sustainable, and scalable community-driven initiatives and innovations.**
- **Strengthen health system capacity** by improving care pathways and ensuring older adults can access community supports, reducing unnecessary institutional care.
- **Foster partnerships between academic and community-based organizations** to co-create and support more equitable, high-impact, and inclusive programming and innovation.
- Generate evidence to **drive meaningful health policy change.**

Comments on this Information Bulletin may be sent to
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