



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ELDERS SPEAK OUT ABOUT AGEISM

Canada has become, and is seen worldwide as a society segregated by age. Thousands died in its long-term care institutions yet the Federal and Ontario provincial governments have not listened to older adults' recommendations for change. Ignoring older adults in this way is an obvious symptom of systemic ageism embedded in government itself.

This brief confronts some difficult subjects that few want to discuss, but that older adults want to see discussed and actioned. This includes:

- Social conditioning over several decades normalizing elders being “put away” by their families when they require help;
- Canada’s emphasis on mass institutionalization as opposed to more progressive policies that support what older adults want – to age in place;
- Widespread ageist attitudes and actions across Ontario and the country that are so severe that they are causing elders psychic pain, constitute a form of elder abuse, and are promoting elders’ desires to end their own lives rather than be abandoned in institutions.
- A society that is no longer social, and neighborhoods that no longer offer refuge for elders.
- A health care system riddled with ageism, compassion fatigue, and weaponized to put elders away in institutions;
- Elected officials that have become more concerned with greed, self-interest and power than they are in public service, unwilling to genuinely consult with elder constituents because that is not seen to advance their abilities to fundraise or get re-elected;
- Self-dubbed “advocates” who claim to speak for elders without speaking to them.

In only 15 pages, this brief sets out recommendations for how to address all of these issues and thereby also address the systemic ageism in Canadian society that is hurting so many older people.

It is in the best interests of people of all ages to address these issues, since everyone is aging and will, one day, face the same challenges.

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