**Re: 2021 Federal Election Platform – Inclusion of Older Adults**

Dear Party President,

On behalf of Your Organization Name and our many partners, we are deeply concerned about the health and well-being of Canada’s older adults. I write to you today seeking direct commitments to improve the lives of older citizens within the Party Name’s 2021 Federal Election Platform.

The pandemic this past year illuminated the stark situation of older Canadians. Those in long-term care facilities suffered the highest death rates, often in abysmal care conditions. The majority (91%) of older Canadians who live in private dwellings saw alarming spikes in reports of elder abuse that overwhelmed crisis lines. Chronic underfunding and lack of meaningful data reveal longstanding systemic problems in the areas of the continuum of care and elder abuse. Existing issues of social isolation, poverty and lack of affordable housing further exposed already vulnerable seniors to greater harm through lack of access to healthcare, community services and supports. Increased isolation is also the perfect storm for predatory fraud, the number one crime against older Canadians.

It is time for a new human-rights based approach to policy on older Canadians. As you and your party look to election 2021, we suggest that you include the following 4 key commitments in your Electoral Platform:

1. Fund and reform the continuum of care including home care, long-term care, health care, mental health, psychosocial disability, and caregiving. Clear directed funding, tied to provincial obligations, is required to properly respond to the needs of an aging population in home care and long-term care, and to properly address decades of underfunding and neglect. The federal government needs to return to the 6% contribution to heath care, include health promotion in its health care delivery and include ageing as a factor in the health transfer calculation.
2. Fully address elder abuse in the community with a pan-Canadian approach. Build critical infrastructure through elder abuse networks that can be deployed to educate and engage all Canadians on the issue, in their home communities. Federal prevention funding directed specifically to the sector is required with provincial access tied to key deliverables and data.
3. Support income security, which is directly tied to access to care and elder abuse by increasing GIS by $50 a month for the poorest older Canadians. Stop the age discriminating increase to OAS that only includes those over the age of 75. Extend it to those over 65.
4. Urgently and fully commit to protect the human rights of older Canadians and address ageism by leading and supporting a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

Your signature