Office of the Seniors’ Advocate – An Update

Research Exchange Group on Aging
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Suzanne Brake, PhD
Seniors’ Advocate
Newfoundland and Labrador
Seniors’ Advocate Act

- July 5, 2017 – Act and Regulations were proclaimed and came into effect

- November 7, 2017 – Seniors’ Advocate appointed

- Statutory Office reporting directly to HOA

- Independent Office
  - Level III Entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*
    (3-Year Activity Plan & Annual Activity Report)
Definitions

➢ senior:
   an individual who is (i) 65 years of age or older or (ii) less than 65 years of age and receives seniors' services.

➢ seniors' services:
   programs, services or systems of support, prescribed in the regulations, that are related to health care, personal care, housing, transportation or finances that are used by or associated with seniors.

➢ service providers:
   the public or private persons or bodies prescribed in the regulations who fund or deliver, in whole or in part, seniors' services.
Role

➢ identify, review and analyze **systemic issues** related to seniors;

➢ work collaboratively with seniors' organizations, service providers and others to identify and address systemic issues related to seniors; and

➢ make recommendations to government and government agencies respecting changes to improve seniors' services.
Powers and Duties

- Outreach and Engagement
- Public Awareness
- Tracking and Trending
- Reviews
Long May Your Big Jib Draw: Setting Sail

Report released on September 25, 2019

Three Major Areas:
- Aging in Place
- Healthcare
- Labour Force Participation

11 priority areas and 25 potential actions/recommendations
Update

- Impact of Covid-19 on Seniors
- Progress on implementation of actions/recommendations
- Importance of Research
- Media/Presentations
Impact of Covid-19 on Seniors in NL

Ageism

Technology

Social isolation

Access to essentials
Progress on implementation of actions/recommendations

- Impact of State of Emergency/COVID on Progress
  - Priorities change
  - Restrictions
  - Singular focus
  - Calls: +++ dispensing fees, visitation, finances, access to services

- 3 categories; 11 priority areas and 25 potential actions
  - Continued monitoring of numerous actions
  - Continued to work on reviews (Homelessness, LTC, Oral Health, Mental Health)
Importance of Research

◦ Engaged in applications for funding for research initiatives

◦ Participated in selection committee for ARC-NL

◦ Partnering with Support/NL and Patient Partners re study on Impact of COVID on Residents in LTC

◦ Partnering with Quality of Care NL to duplicate BC Study on LTC
Media/Presentations

Media Interviews
◦ Canada Press, VOCM, CBC Radio Canada, NTV, CBC-NL, Telegram
◦ Topics: Loneliness/social isolation, sexual assault, ageism, elections etc.

Presentations
◦ CARP (National, Atlantic) Chancellor Park, Seniors Advocate Sask, SeniorsNL, PACAS,
◦ Issues in LTC, impact of COVID, role of social work....
◦ Numerous ongoing education session through IFA
Contact Information

P.O. Box 13033
2 Canada Drive, St. John’s, NL A1B 3B8
709-729-6603 1-833-729-6603 (toll free)

seniorsadvocate@seniorsadvocatenl.ca
www.seniorsadvocatenl.ca