Abstract

Research, Community Engagement and Policy Development:
Pathway to a Population Ageing Framework in Alberta Canada

Like many developed countries, the older adult population in Canada is on the rise. While there are national policies and programs that address the needs of the aging population, provincial governments are the ones administering most of the programs and policies. Every day, approximately 2000 people in Alberta turn 65 years old. By the year 2021, the proportion of older adults in Alberta reaching 65 years of age will increase to 15 percent from 11 percent in 2011. By 2031, it is estimated that one in five Albertans will be 65 years or older. The increase of the aging population stimulates interest among researchers, decision makers and policy makers to join forces to examine issues related to older people.

In November 2010, the "Population Aging Policy Framework" was released by the Alberta Government. The Framework serves the function of identifying the government's role in an aging society, communicating the government's key policy directions, providing an overall context for the coordinated development of policies, programs and services to meet the needs of Alberta's aging population, providing a framework to inform the allocation of resources, and fostering collaboration and integration among government units.

This presentation will discuss the pathway, process, and policy framework development trajectory in Alberta. The presenter was a member of the Demographic Planning Commission and was involved in a series of research and community consultation activities that supported the formulation of the policy framework. As a policy initiative, this framework addresses issues related to social determinants of health and well-being of the aging population. Roles and responsibilities of inter-sectorial key stakeholders and players will be critically examined. The resulting population aging policy framework will also be analyzed in terms of its comprehensiveness, inter-sectorial nature and associated policy directions and priorities.