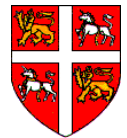


Federal - Provincial - Territorial Legacy Projects



International Year of Older Persons 1999



Prepared for:

Ministers Responsible for Seniors

by

FPT / IYOP Working Group



September 1, 2001



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Additional copies are available from:

Internet: <http://www.sppd.gc.ca>
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/heal/seniors/senior1.htm>

Contact Persons: Contact persons for each jurisdiction
are identified in this report under the
appropriate provincial/territorial heading.

Egalement disponible en français sous le titre:

Projets Héritage, Fédéraux - Provinciaux - Territoriaux
Année internationale des personnes âgées 1999.

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FOREWORD

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Committee of Officials Responsible for Seniors reports directly to the FPT Ministers Responsible for Seniors. During the last meeting of Ministers Responsible for Seniors held September 14, 1999 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Ministers asked that legacy projects initiated in 1999 by jurisdictions be compiled and shared.

Provinces and territories promoted IYOP activities within their jurisdictions and national projects were coordinated by Health Canada's Division of Aging and Seniors. This report highlights the legacy projects initiated by respective jurisdictions.

** Legacy Projects: those projects initiated during 1999 that will continue beyond the year and leave a legacy for years to come.*

NEWFOUNDLAND - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Inter-Agency Committee for Seniors' Housing - An Inter-Agency Committee for Seniors' Housing was established in 1999 to review housing options and long-term care requirements in the province. The work of this Committee is ongoing.

Cross -Departmental Committee on Seniors Policies and Services - A Cross-Departmental Committee was established in the Spring of 1999 to review and revise all government policies, programs and services for seniors. To date, this Committee has held several meetings and will continue to review policies and programs and make recommendations for change, as necessary.

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NOVA SCOTIA - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Growing Up, Growing Older - is a classroom resource developed in four booklets for Nova Scotia teachers of Preschool and Grades 3, 6, and 9. Each booklet includes activities and resources that foster understanding of the aging process and appreciation for the needs and contributions of older persons. At each age level, the theme of *Growing Up, Growing Older* is introduced from a different perspective:

- Preschool- *Growing and Changing*
- Grade 3- *Generations*
- Grade 6- *Senior Friendly Communities*
- Grade 9- *Aging as a Natural and Positive Aspect of Life*

These booklets encourage intergenerational activities and understanding.

Legacy Video - this video serves as a final report of the Nova Scotia Planning Committee for the International Year of Older Persons and highlights the goals and intent of the Year. It also records the activities and projects initiated by the Committee and other sectors involved in celebrating the Year. The video highlights the achievements of older persons in Nova Scotia and will be used to encourage activities and projects well beyond 1999.

Tree Planting - The Nova Scotia Planning Committee formed a small committee of its members to carry on with this project beyond 1999. Throughout the province many trees were planted at nursing homes, cenotaphs, schools and parks. The activities around these tree plantings involved the whole community and encouraged dialogue and working together among all ages. Tree Canada and corporate sectors will continue to work with the Tree Planting Committee to encourage ongoing activities of tree planting which will leave a legacy for future generations.

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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Gerontology Scholarship - A new post graduate scholarship, developed by the PEI International Year of Older Persons Planning Committee, is a permanent legacy of the International Year of Older Persons. The new scholarship of \$1000 annually to the University of Prince Edward Island will be awarded to a P.E.I. student pursuing post graduate studies in gerontology, the study of aging. The first scholarship was awarded in the year 2000.

The new scholarship will be an excellent incentive to encourage young people to consider a career in gerontology. This will become increasingly important in the future as the number of older people in our population increases. The need for practitioners in the field of gerontology will certainly increase as the population ages. The scholarship, the first of its kind, will encourage others to consider similar projects. Attracting more young people to careers in gerontology will clearly support our efforts to support healthy aging in our province.

The International Year of Older Persons Planning Committee raised \$27,500 for the scholarship over a four-month period from February to June, 1999, which exceeded their \$25,000 target. The government of Prince Edward Island gave additional support to increase the scholarship to \$30,000. The \$30,000 will remain in an endowment fund at the University of Prince Edward Island. The University will award an annual scholarship of \$1000, using interest on the principal.

International Year of Older Persons Legacy Calendar - The International Year of Older Persons Planning Committee invited grade four students from across P.E.I. to participate in a calendar contest. The contest theme was "shared activities." Students submitted a drawing of themselves with their grandparents or other older persons with whom they love doing their favourite shared activity. Twelve winning drawings were selected and a calendar was developed as a legacy to commemorate the International Year of Older Persons 1999. The calendar is for the year 2000, but is also a keepsake. Winning entries were scanned so that they visually represent the actual drawings submitted by students.

Thirteen winners were selected from among all the entries submitted by grade 4 students from across Prince Edward Island and a calendar from the winning entries will be developed. One of the winning drawings will be featured each month over the twelve months of the year and one for the cover.

All students who submitted a drawing received a calendar for participating in the contest, regardless of whether their drawing was selected to be featured in the calendar.

Adoption of the Declaration of the Rights and Responsibilities of Older Persons - On December 10, 1999, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, Honourable Pat Binns, Premier of Prince Edward Island, signed a Declaration on the Rights and Responsibilities of Older Persons. The Declaration reads as follows:

The Prince Edward Island Government,

Appreciating the tremendous diversity in the situation of older persons, not only among countries but within countries and between individuals, which requires a variety of policy responses,

Aware that in all nations, individuals are living to advanced age in greater number and in better health than ever before, and persuaded by the scientific research disproving many stereotypes about inevitable and irreversible declines with age,

Convinced that a world characterized by increasing numbers and proportions of older persons must provide opportunities for willing and capable older persons to participate and contribute to the ongoing activities of society,

Mindful that the strains on family life in both developed and developing nations requires support for caregivers of frail older persons,

Emphasizing that fundamental human rights do not diminish with age and believing that because of the marginalization and disabilities which old age may bring, older persons are at risk of losing their rights and being rejected by society unless these rights are clearly identified and respected,

Recognizing that without these rights, older persons cannot meet their desired responsibilities,

Bearing In Mind the standards already set in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, and the International Plan of Action on Aging, as well as the adoption of other declarations to assure the application of universal standards to particular groups,

Now Proclaims the following rights of older persons which should be secured to them by national and international action so that they may be protected and enabled to make continuing contributions to society, as well as the responsibilities which they acknowledge. *(A copy of the Rights and Responsibilities is available on request).*

For further information please contact:

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NEW BRUNSWICK - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

The 1994 International Year of the Family challenged us to reflect upon the importance of families in our society, and as a result, the first Family Award of New Brunswick was presented. Since then the Family Awards are presented annually in New Brunswick to send the message that families in New Brunswick are important.

The United Nations declared 1999 the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP), offering communities across the country an opportunity to recognize seniors and celebrate their contributions. In recognition of the importance of seniors and the beneficial role they play in families, the New Brunswick Family Award has established a specific category for seniors.

For further information regarding the Family Awards contact:

Department of Family and Community Services

Office for Family and Prevention Services

P.O. Box 5100

Fredericton, NB, Canada

E3B 5G8

Phone: (506) 453-2950

Fax: (506) 453-2082

QUEBEC - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Regional Issue Tables - Quebec has established 17 issue tables which work in cooperation with the Conseil des aînés and which have a link with the Conseil régional de développement in each of the regions. The operating expenses for the issue tables are paid by the Quebec government.

For further information please contact:

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Viellir en liberté, en toute Sûreté! - The Sûreté du Québec is continuing its prevention program against mistreatment, crime, injuries and the crisis situations to which seniors can fall victim.

For further information please contact:

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Public Hearings on the Exploitation of Older Persons - Public hearings were held in March 2000 within the framework of the International Year of Older Persons. The theme was the exploitation of older persons. Fifty different groups presented 117 briefs. The report, which is expected to be released in the fall, may urge government departments and agencies to take measures or initiatives in response, in whole or in part, to the report's recommendations.

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Training Session on the Principles of the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms -

Awareness workshops offered free of charge to community groups, older persons' groups, CLSC-CHSLD staff and other interested groups. The content is tailored to the group's needs.

For further information please contact:

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ONTARIO - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

To celebrate the contributions of Ontario seniors to our province, the Government of Ontario launched a total of 11 IYOP initiatives at a cost of approximately \$5 million. The value of many of these projects continues to benefit seniors well beyond the IYOP.

Through the **IYOP Community Partnership Program (CPP)**, the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat provided funding to over 1,000 community organizations for projects that marked the IYOP and benefitted local seniors. \$20,000 was made available to 130 communities, for a total budget of \$2.6 million. Projects included the planting of commemorative and therapeutic gardens, documenting the contributions of seniors in local communities, and educating seniors on safe medication use.

The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, in a joint initiative with the Ontario Senior Games Association and the Town of Collingwood, contributed \$200,000 to fund **Winterfest 2000**, Ontario's first **Senior Winter Games**. The games showcased 400 amateur athletes 55 years of age who competed in alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, skating, hockey, curling, volleyball and badminton. The **Second Ontario Senior Winter Games** are scheduled for 2003 in London, Ontario.

In partnership with the Dominion Institute, a non-profit charity organization committed to broadening appreciation of Canadian history in schools, the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat launched "**The Memory Project**" during Remembrance Week 1999. "The Memory Project" is an educational campaign geared to raising youth awareness of veterans' contributions to Canada. **Phase II** expanded the educational impact of veterans' stories into the classroom province-wide with an interactive website (www.thememoryproject.com) and educational resources. **Phase III** is currently underway with plans for training 1000+ veterans over the next three years to work with students in schools across the province and the production of education resources to support the new Ontario history and civics curriculum.+

The **Veterans' Commemorative Park** was officially opened on October 24, 2000 to honour the efforts of Ontario veterans. A grant of \$100,000 was awarded to the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Command, to establish a park on Highway 416, the Veterans Memorial Highway.

The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat, with assistance from the Alzheimer Society of Ontario, the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario, United Generations Ontario, and local school boards, have implemented the **Intergenerational Volunteer Initiative** of Ontario's Strategy for Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias. This initiative supports the recruitment and training of grade 11 and 12 students to volunteer in community programs serving people with Alzheimer Disease and related dementias.

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MANITOBA - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Legacy Quilt Project - To commemorate the Year and to celebrate the legacy of quilting to Manitoba's heritage, the Manitoba Society for Seniors and the Seniors Directorate designed the Legacy Quilt Project. From April to December 1999, older adults from across Manitoba contributed a total of 42 squares. Each quilter selected a pattern that reflects the history or memories associated with the area or community in which the older person lives. It is now available for display at community functions and seniors events as well as in personal care homes and seniors residences. Plans for public display in government buildings are under consideration.

Seniors are Cool Video - In keeping with the intergenerational approach to celebrating International Year of the Older Persons (IYOP), the Seniors Directorate and the Manitoba Council on Aging, in conjunction with Manitoba Education and Training, have produced an educational video aimed at elementary school students. The video uses an intergenerational approach to celebrate the contributions that seniors have made and are making to the continued growth and development of Manitoba, by highlighting facts and situations that show interaction between seniors and children. Additionally, it is anticipated that the older persons profiled in the video will teach children lifelong strategies for living, including the importance of community involvement, maintaining fitness and a healthy lifestyle, and lifelong learning

Active Living Summit - Healthy active living is a major issue for seniors. In September, 1999 with the assistance of IYOP funding, a Manitoba Summit on Healthy Active Living for Older Persons was held. The purpose of the Summit on Healthy Active Living was to encourage development of strategies to improve and promote the concepts of healthy active living to older adults. The outcome achieved from the Summit was to create a momentum for change in the daily lives of Manitobans. The Summit created a strategic framework for action that will be delivered well beyond the event itself.

For further information, contact:

SASKATCHEWAN - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

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Ministerial Advisory Committee - this Committee is called the Provincial Advisory Committee

of Older Persons. It is made up of 13 members that represent the diversity of the seniors' population within the province. The Committee has met four times since its inception in June 2000 and is developing a Provincial Policy Framework and Action Plan for Older Persons. The areas the Committee is focusing on include:

- healthy living continuum
- health issues
- lifelong learning and active living; and
- contributions of older persons/community involvement.

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ALBERTA - IYOP Legacy Projects

The Government-Wide Study on the Impact of the Aging Population was initiated in November 1998, and guided by a MLA-chaired steering committee. The study was designed to review current trends and programs, identify issues, and engage Albertans in thinking about the future and the kinds of steps that need to be taken to prepare for an aging population. Information-gathering took place throughout 1999, and included widespread consultation with the public, including both seniors and younger Albertans, and with a wide range of interested organizations. The study's first report, *Report A: Review of Current Government Programs and Services*, with 19 recommendations, was released in June 1999. The final report, *ALBERTA FOR ALL AGES: Directions for the Future*, was released in June 2000. The final report contains 45 recommendations to assist Alberta in managing the aging population and anticipating the changing needs of Albertans as they age. Because the study was initiated in time for IYOP and represents a planning document for the future, it is considered to be Alberta's major legacy project of IYOP.

For further information, visit the study's web page:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/mcd/seniors/impactaging/impactaging.htm>

or contact:

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Alberta Justice, in co-operation with Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association, develops an annual Planning Guide for Alberta's Crime Prevention Week. This guide is distributed to local crime prevention agencies and committees to assist them in promoting crime prevention. The 1999 guide included an information sheet for seniors entitled *Seniors Crime Prevention Tips*, in recognition of IYOP. The tips also appear on the Alberta Justice web site. It is intended that the information sheet will continue to be included in the annual planning guide and on the web site, as a legacy of IYOP.

For further information, visit the Alberta Justice web site:

<http://www.gov.ab.ca/just/crimeprev/tipsSenior.htm>

or contact:

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In recognition of IYOP, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Farm Safety Program invited all Alberta grandparents to help develop the first in a series of interactive farm safety workbooks for children living in rural areas. The first workbook was completed in late 2000. The workbooks will be placed in all the rural health units in the province. It is intended that the workbooks will be regularly updated and further developed, with input from grandparents and other interested seniors, as a lasting legacy of IYOP.

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In recognition of IYOP, Alberta Infrastructure prepared a web page describing Alberta Infrastructure's overall mandate and how it relates to seniors. The web page includes descriptions of the department's efforts to make driving safer for older persons and improve accessibility for all persons with mobility limitations; tips on safe driving and maintaining health; and advice on public transportation alternatives. Following Alberta governments reorganization in March 2001, this mandate has now been transferred to Alberta Transportation. The web page will also shortly be transferred from Alberta Infrastructure's website to Alberta Transportation's website. The web page will be retained as a legacy of IYOP.

*For further information, visit the web page: www.infras.gov.ab.ca
or contact:*

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BRITISH COLUMBIA- IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

On September 7, 1999, Honourable, Gretchen Mann Brewin, Speaker of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly, planted a tree on the grounds of the Lieutenant Governor's residence in honour of the IYOP. The beautiful flowering Japanese cherry (*Prunus Serrulata* 'Shirofugen'), will eventually grow to a height of 25 feet. The tree produces a profusion of white flowers in late spring and its leaves turn gold and red in the fall. This fragrant fruit-bearing tree is a native of Japan and Korea. This IYOP legacy stands in Lawn #1 of Government House, whose gardens are open to the public, and are a popular destination for visitors to British Columbia's capital, Victoria.

On September 8, 1999, The Honourable, Lieutenant-Governor, Garde Gardom, hosted a tea party for seniors to acknowledge the IYOP. The Honourable Penny Priddy, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors, headed a receiving line to greet and acknowledge contributions of seniors.

On October 30 and 31, 1999, over 400 delegates met at the Empire Landmark Hotel in Vancouver for the Seniors Summit. Participants in this "Conference For And About Seniors" heard presentations and held discussion sessions on: health, housing, diversity, income, technology and community building. They celebrated seniors' accomplishments as part of IYOP and identified needs and concerns of seniors that remain to be addressed. The 411 Seniors Centre, who hosted the Summit were so impressed with its attendance and the quality of the discussions, they determined to maintain the momentum. They have subsequently hosted a further three forums and established ongoing working groups focused on health care, housing, transportation, income and communications.

The IYOP Steering Committee commissioned the publication of a commemorative book. The full colour publication is a celebration of the various activities that took place throughout the towns and villages of British Columbia during the IYOP. Seniors submitted text and photos that celebrate such diverse events as the publication of seniors' biographies in Cache Creek to the formation of a Friends of the East Kootenays Seniors Society. The book was published in June 2001 and is available on request.

For further information please contact:

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Fax: (250) 952-1159

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

The seniors of the Northwest Territories will be having an annual 'walk' to commemorate Seniors' Day in October of each year. Each community will be encouraged to participate in the manner that suits the local seniors population.

For further information please contact:

Executive Director

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Yellowknife, NT, Canada
X1A 2L9*

Phone: The Seniors' Information Line
@ 1-800-661- 0878

YUKON - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

In 1999 Yukon contributed \$23,000 towards IYOP projects. This funding assisted seniors' groups and community organizations to carry out a wide range of projects. The legacy left by IYOP is the increased awareness of the role seniors play in our community, and the tremendous contributions they have made, and continue to make, to the territory.

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NUNAVUT - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

At the time the IYOP projects took place, Nunavut was a part of the Northwest Territories (NWT). The projects identified by NWT took place in Nunavut as well.

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NATIONAL AND FEDERAL - IYOP LEGACY PROJECTS

Canada Coordinating Committee (CCC)

During 1999, the CCC launched a number of national projects aimed at creating a legacy of intergenerational understanding and support across Canada. The national projects listed below are a few examples.

Golden Gardens - In partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the CCC provided funds to groups across the country to create IYOP commemorative community gardens which would be enjoyed for generations to come. The program surpassed its goal of creating 500 gardens to commemorate the Year. A special ceremony was held at Rideau Hall on June 22 to unveil a model IYOP commemorative garden on the public grounds. A permanent plaque identifies the gardens as an IYOP project. The Canadian Wildlife Federation plans to continue this program designed specifically for seniors.

Plant-a-Tree - This project was carried out in partnership with the Tree Canada Foundation (TCF), to encourage seniors and young people to get together in communities across the country to plant trees. Approximately 20,000 trees were planted through this program and special IYOP tree-planting events were held across the country on October 1, 1999. Through a generous donation by the Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada, approximately 4,000 Green Tree Sleeve seedlings were delivered to nursing homes and long term care facilities across the country.

Other initiatives, undertaken in 1999, stand as legacies of appreciation for Canadian seniors and their many contributions to Canadian society :

Special Edition Silver Coin in Celebration of Older Canadians - In partnership with the Canada Coordinating Committee, the Royal Canadian Mint introduced a sterling silver dollar featuring a design by illustrator Shelagh Armstrong-Hodgson in collaboration with designer Paul Hodgson. Obverse of the coin features a contemporary effigy of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and the reverse portrays a man and a woman, in golden years, travelling the path of life.

Canada Post IYOP Stamp - The former Governor General of Canada, the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, patron of the IYOP in Canada, launched a commemorative stamp at a special ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on April 12, 1999. The stamp features a metaphorical illustration of an older couple enjoying active experiences as they progress along the "Road of Life." The IYOP logo is prominently displayed. The lines express the IYOP themes of vitality and diversity, interdependence between generations, and progression towards an age-integrated society.

For further information on CCC projects contact:

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Health Canada Projects - Population Health Fund

Under the auspices of Health Canada's Population Health Fund, funding was provided to support activities which met Canada's objectives for the International Year of Older Persons. The goal of the Population Health Fund is to increase community capacity for action on or across determinants of health. To achieve this goal, Health Canada supports projects that facilitate joint planning and coordinated actions among voluntary organizations, service providers, governments and the private sector to improve population health.

A total of 61 IYOP projects, 18 national and 43 regional, were approved from three solicitation periods (July 15, 1998; October 15, 1998; and January 15, 1999). These projects represented a total contribution of \$4.8 million. At varying degrees, all of the projects will leave a legacy in terms of tools, resources, partnerships, new knowledge and increased capacity for communities to act on important questions. Here are several examples :

National Projects

Senior Friendly™ Canada Initiative - Building on the success of the Alberta initiative, this project will create and support "senior friendly" communities, programs and services across Canada. The program is geared toward helping groups and businesses better serve their elderly clientele through a series of guidelines.

This initiative has encouraged all sectors of society to be more responsive to an increasingly diverse and aging population. The resources from this project will have a lasting benefit in educating groups and businesses to support our seniors, in improving service to seniors and in changing attitudes about ageism.

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Active Living and Older Aboriginal People (Spirit in Motion) - Through this project, culturally relevant training tools and a training program for Community Health Representatives and other health professionals across Canada were developed to promote active living among the senior population in Aboriginal communities. The training materials, that is a literature review, an exercise video and its accompanying manual, will have a long lasting effect on the lives of seniors (body, mind and social life of a person).

For further information please contact:

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Use and Misuse of Drugs by Seniors - A Cross-Cultural Approach - This project's objectives are to determine the level of drug use and misuse among older adults in ethnocultural communities, to explore common concerns that might lead to inappropriate medication use, to identify culturally appropriate prevention methods, and through a train-the-trainer approach, to increase the capacity of health professionals in providing culturally appropriate drug prevention services.