

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Response to The Globe and Mail

Re: [New study aims to provide clues on how Canadian seniors can age healthily](#)

As CEO of the Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) we are grateful to Picard for highlighting the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging and its data on family income, affordability, support at home and loneliness in seniors.

We know that many seniors are one crisis away from not being able to afford their rent and stay in the community. As a result, seniors are moving into Long-Term Care too soon or becoming an ALC patient because they cannot afford the supports they need to stay in the community. Publicly-funded home care can be insufficient and inefficient to meet their needs.

The study also highlights that seniors are changing. The study is right. That's why ORCA has been championing - a Senior Services Benefit –a monthly allowance – sent directly to the senior to help pay for housing and care needs. It's flexible support. Designed to alleviate financial pressures placed on seniors while empowering them to stay in the community among friends and peers longer where they can live and thrive.

It's so simple. Especially when we know that a 2018 poll conducted by DART Insight and Communications for ORCA clearly shows that 79 per cent of Canadians worry about having enough money to pay for their care when they need it; while 91 per cent of Canadians agreed that they do not want to be socially isolated in their later years.

Other countries are already using this kind of self-directed care model – why aren't we?

Laurie Johnston, CEO, ORCA

