

## ONTARIO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION WANTS HELP FOR SENIORS IN ONTARIO BUDGET

*Senior Services Benefit would support seniors to stay in their communities longer*

Oakville, ON – March 27, 2018 – The Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) wants help for seniors in Wednesday's budget with a commitment to a Senior Services Benefit.

"A Senior Services Benefit would act as a monthly allowance to help seniors pay for their housing and care needs," said ORCA CEO, Laurie Johnston. "We know seniors thrive when they are living in congregate settings - a Senior Services Benefit would alleviate financial pressures and empower seniors to make good choices while allowing them to stay in their communities as long as possible."

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 71 per cent worry about being a burden on their family if they can't look after themselves. Almost all Canadians, 96 per cent, agreed that social interaction is important for seniors' health and well being. Ninety-four per cent of Canadians agreed that social isolation is associated with higher health risks and 91 per cent of Canadians agreed that they do not want to be socially isolated in their later years.

ORCA's Pre-Budget Submission outlines the concept for a Senior Services Benefit that would:

- Fund seniors directly for services needed (e.g. rent, housing, assistance/support, meals, care, etc.)
- Include funding that is sustainable and predictable
- Ensure funding that is awarded based on established criteria
- Be accountable
- Be fair to seniors utilizing it

"There is an increasingly robust body of evidence to support the benefits of this kind of self-directed care model," said Johnston. "And several practical examples here in Canada and around the world that Ontario can draw from. When you place that with knowing 96 per cent of families worry less if their loved one has supports to keep them safe and well, a Senior Services Benefit is essential. Essential to support to both the senior and their family - and a tremendous step in the right direction for Ontarians."

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**For more information or a copy of [ORCA's Pre-Budget Submission](#):**

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**For a copy of the analysis, methodology and detailed tables**, please visit:  
<http://dartincom.ca/attitudes-senior-care-worry-others/>

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The Ontario Retirement Communities Association is a voluntary non-profit organization that represents the operators of retirement homes across Ontario. With over 600 members, ORCA represents 93 per cent of the retirement home suites in the province. Our sector employs upward of 28,000 full-time and part-time employees who support over 57,000 seniors.