



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Canadian Election**

Toronto

**Older Canadians Demand Effective Leadership to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation  
1 in 10 Seniors Experience Abuse – Canada Must Act Now**

National studies show that 1 in 10 seniors experience some form of abuse each year. Financial abuse and exploitation are economic and social threats to our communities, our economy, and our country, but it is older Canadians that are disproportionately vulnerable to these threats. They strip older Canadians of their financial security, undermining their health and independence, and forcing increased reliance on public services. Abuse against older adults is a hidden crisis that affects all Canadians.

**The time to act is NOW;** Canada is facing unprecedented economic stress and uncertainty in the coming years and economic instability fuels financial abuse. Older Canadians already face growing threats from both domestic and international criminals, putting their hard-earned savings and assets at risk. As of December 31, 2024, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) reported approximately \$638 million in financial losses to fraud and organized crime – a significant increase from \$383 million in 2021. These figures represent only a fraction of the problem, as it is estimated that only 5% to 10% of victims report fraud to the CAFC.

**Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario (EAPO) calls on federal candidates to commit to:**

**1. Preventing financial abuse and exploitation of older adults through Immediate and sustained action.**

Amend legislation and invest in strategies to prevent financial abuse and exploitation, and hold perpetrators accountable. Provide for stronger enforcement against perpetrators and greater oversight and accountability of federally regulated financial institutions.

**2. Establishing a National Strategy on Ageing grounded in Human Rights.**

Canada needs its government to develop a comprehensive, whole-of-government, National Strategy to challenge ageism and promote equity across all sectors. Such strategy should aim to protect the security and well-being of older Canadians, including their health, financial security and workforce inclusion.

**3. Ensuring that the protection and well-being of older Canadians are priorities of the highest order, by mandating a senior cabinet minister to lead this effort across government.**

Canada is aging rapidly. By 2030, 1 in 4 Canadians will be over the age of 65. Despite being the fastest-growing demographic, older persons are too often dismissed — as if they are only passive recipients of government services. Political leadership and public policy continue to ignore the needs, rights, and the many contributions of older persons. This must change NOW.



**Elder Abuse  
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