

OUTREACH

October, 2018

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SAVE THE DATE!

Ontario's Premier Seniors' Conference & Information Fair!

Join us at our exciting new location on **Thursday November 15, 2018** at the Julius Banquet Centre in North York, Ontario!

Message from the Executive Director

Elizabeth Nykorowytch Macnab, CHRL

While on vacation in Spain, TV stations showed floods in Granada, flooding in the Carolinas, and a Typhoon hitting the orient. What does this have to do with our municipal elections? While Municipalities do not always have infrastructures for what nature throws, we can require our municipalities to give us what we need to thrive.

In times of a disaster, the 1st responders are municipal employees. It was the 2nd responders, our neighbours, which gave me a new perspective on this election. We should be asking candidates to "support the type of community and neighbourhoods we want." Does our neighbourhood have green space for children, families and older people for exercise and socialization? Instead of "big box stores", do we want more small

businesses in our communities? Does our public transportation adequately connect people within our community? Does it connect rural and northern communities to larger urban centres so we can age in our place of choice? Are there enough warming or cooling centres or emergency shelters?

The community I retire in will meet my current and future needs. Streets must be well lit to walk safely in. I need a place for a coffee, somewhere to publicly read a newspaper, and places to get me out of my home. In my ideal community, I can walk or drive to a doctor's and dentist's office, a hairdresser, dry cleaner, convenience or grocery store, some retail stores to wander through. I need a neighbourhood where people help one another. A good reliable public transportation system takes me shopping, for recreation and to visit friends when I no longer drive.

This election, ask your candidates how they will meet

Ontario Society of Senior Citizens Organizations

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your neighbourhood's needs. Will they fix crumbling infrastructures i.e. sewers, roads, sidewalks? Will they invest in libraries or community centres? Is your neighbourhood child-friendly? Would a newcomer or immigrant feel at home? Can a person with disability function independently to their maximum abilities? Only you and your neighbours know your community's needs best. Make sure your candidates know what is important before, on and after the municipal election.

Why Seniors Should Vote in the Municipal Election

By: Susan McDougall,
Educational Program Assistant:
Seniors Project



Municipal elections get considerably less media attention than federal and provincial ones. However,

here's why seniors need to vote in the upcoming election.

Municipalities administer or strongly influence many of the services needed to support seniors to age comfortably and safely in their own homes and communities.

Services such as Public Health Nurses on the *Vulnerable Adults and Seniors' Team*, who respond to concerns from family and community members about seniors living alone. These nurses will get in touch with the senior within three days, help make a plan of action, and follow up with appropriate services and supports.

The Homemakers and Nurses Services Program (HMNS) is also administered by the Municipality. HMNS provides light housekeeping, laundry, shopping and meal preparation to eligible seniors living in the community.

The Municipality is also responsible for both a Supportive Housing and Adult Day Program. The Supportive Housing Program promotes independent living to eligible seniors in designated buildings. The Adult Day Program gives seniors the opportunity to have a day out,

participate in quality activities, and at the same time provides much-needed respite for their family caregiver. Please refer to your community's website for a complete listing of services administered by the municipal government or call your Councillor's office.

With the number of older Ontarians rapidly rising, communities across the province are also responsible for their own **Age-Friendly Strategy**, which is a plan to make their town or city a safer, navigable, accessible and enjoyable community for an aging population.



It is important that Seniors' voices are heard and **you can help**. Educate yourself on candidates' positions through their written communications, television debates or attend their rallies. Question their positions in person, by phone or email. Most importantly, make your voice heard by **voting** in the upcoming Municipal Elections across Ontario on October 22, 2018.

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What You Need to Know to Go and Vote

By: Susan McDougall,
Educational Program Assistant:
Seniors Project

Concerned about making it to a polling station for the upcoming Municipal Election? Call your local city councillor's office (or the office of a candidate you support) and ask to be provided with transportation.

Ask about advanced polling locations and hours. Maybe the Advanced Poll is at a location more convenient for you. Also, ask if your city or town has online voting. The availability of online voting varies by community.

Visit www.voterlookup.ca to ensure your name is on the voters list. If your name isn't there, the website gives you instructions on how to ensure it is added. Make your vote count!

Seniors as Influencers: Transforming Communities through Civic Dialogue

By: Mitra Mohamadzadeh,
Educational Program Assistant:
Workforce Project

Seniors are decision makers and influencers who help create political change. Seniors have the ability to transform communities through civic dialogue by enhancing awareness, exploring how to work together on issues and encouraging others to follow suit.



It is critical for each of us to know and to understand the role of Government at various levels, and our rights and responsibilities. Only then can we make informed decisions as to who should represent us at each level of Government.

By engaging in OSSCO's Civic Dialogue workshops, seniors have the opportunity to broach various issues to ensure they are well informed on issues being raised in today's political discourse.

What is Civic Dialogue?

Dialogue is a conversation. It is a two-way method of communication involving active listening as well as speaking.

When both parties are fully engaged in the process, it CAN and DOES lead to social change.

VOTE! One of the most fundamental rights we enjoy as Canadians is the right to vote. Voting in elections and being a candidate in elections are two of the rights and duties of Canadian Citizens – Seniors Included!

Levels of Government

Knowing the role of Government at various levels and your rights and responsibilities as citizens is crucial. Knowing the role of Government ensures that you are making an informed decision when it comes time to vote.

Federal: Think of the federal government as responsible for decisions that affect every Canadian equally, regardless of where in Canada they reside.

Provincial: Think of the Provincial government as responsible for helping you get

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a marriage license, for educating your children or grandchildren and for your local health care.

Municipal: This is the level of government that is usually based in a city, town or district (a *municipality*). Municipal governments are responsible for areas such as libraries, parks, community water systems, local police, roadways and parking.

It is vital to know how to transform our communities through civic dialogue. You have the power to ignite change by engaging in effective civic dialogue in your community.



Becoming engaged, active influencers of public policy is your right as a citizen.

Exercise your right by **voting on October 22th, 2018!**

The Notwithstanding Clause



By: Justine Sterling,
Educational Program Assistant;
Workforce Project

There has been a lot in the news these days about the Toronto City Council. This is partially due to Premier Ford's use of the notwithstanding clause to reintroduce Bill 5, also known as the Better Local Government Act. Critics from both political wings have debated the use of the notwithstanding clause, but what does it mean?

Simply put the notwithstanding clause, or Section 33 of the Canadian constitution, allows the provincial or federal government the authority to override sections of the Canadian Constitution, particularly sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This means that Bill 5 which was originally deemed

unconstitutional by Ontario Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba, was reintroduced and given Royal assent which will reduce the number of Toronto city councillors from 47 to 25.

The notwithstanding clause was originally created as a check and balance between the federal and provincial governments during the 1980s with the adoption of the new Canadian Constitution. It allows the federal or provincial government the authority to push laws which may appear to violate some constitutional charter rights.

While it does not grant authority to override basic freedoms – equality between men and women, mobility rights and democratic rights – it is essentially a clause which allows the government to enact laws that may seem to infringe on charter rights under the constitution.

Regardless of whether this move seems right or wrong, it is an unprecedented move with the Ontario Premier heralding in the clause's first use within Ontario and potentially setting the tone for the current and future Ontario governments.

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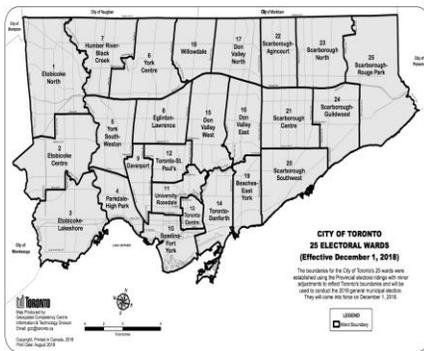


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Provincial Legislation Creates 25 Wards in Toronto & Affects Others

By: Justine Sterling,
Educational Program Assistant:
Workforce Project



For over a month Toronto has been at the centre of electoral confusion in the province of Ontario with the realignment of Toronto's Municipal Election boundaries to 25 wards. These boundaries now match the electoral boundaries of the provincial and federal jurisdictions.

This change resulted in Toronto municipal candidates being unsure as to where they should be campaigning and whether there would even be an election in Toronto on October 22, 2018.

There has been a debate in both Toronto council and the media over the validity of the new 25 wards to increase from 61,000 residents within the previous 47 ward system to the larger constituency of 109,000 residents.

OSSCO's newest workshop called *Healthy Involvement in Public Policy by Seniors* is funded by Province of Ontario. Participants learned about where the authority for and municipal structures comes from. Each province in Canada is responsible to establish municipalities, their boundaries and authority.

Premier Doug Ford has expressed that changes to the Toronto electoral boundaries will cut costs and will significantly improve the decision-making process of the Toronto municipal government. Other municipal jurisdictions were also affected by this legislation which changed election rules by eliminating positions of Regional Chairs in Peel, Niagara and York Regions.

Regardless of how you feel about this change, the electoral landscape in Toronto and 3 Regions is affected.

What's My Story? Communicate With Me!

By: Stacy Chung,
Communications & Programs
Specialist



Stacy Chung is Ontario Society of Seniors Citizens Organizations (OSSCO) new Communications & Programs Specialist. Prior to joining OSSCO, Stacy worked in recreation within the non-profit sector. She also brings several years of experience working with older adults in the community.

With an Honors Degree in Kinesiology and a Minor in Health Sciences, Stacy discovered her passion for working with older adults while volunteering at a long-term

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care and rehabilitation facility during her time at Western University.

Through her other community experiences, Stacy gained the practical knowledge and experience to organize educational programs for older people and to support OSSCO's signature events such as 'Tuesdays with OSSCO' and Ontario's **Premier Conference & Information Fair**, booked for Thursday November 15, 2018 this year.

Stacy is looking forward to expanding her community base and building new relations with OSSCO member and other seniors' organizations. She is also interested in identifying the impact of public policy on an older demographic and bringing awareness of issues affecting an aging population.

Fun fact: Simply put, Stacy caught the 'travel bug' and she has yet to 'shake it off'! In the fall of 2017, Stacy took some time off for travel. Whenever she gets the chance, Stacy jumps at the opportunity to explore a new place including the kitchen. Best baked goodies? Lemon bars!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OSSCO

Save the Date

Ontario's Premier Seniors' Conference & Information Fair!

Every year, Ontario Society of Seniors' Citizens Organizations (OSSCO) organizes Ontario's *Premier Seniors Conference & Information Fair*. This **Thursday November 15, 2018** join us at our new location at the Julius Banquet Centre in North York, Ontario! This one-and-only educational event highlights programs and services for the well-being of aging Ontarians. This year's theme 'Celebrating Helping Seniors' features special key note speakers for the conference and a variety of exhibitors for the information fair!

Are you 55+ & interested in attending? Participant registration for the conference is now open! The morning and afternoon conference sessions are free if you are 55+. OSSCO member organizations and groups are encouraged to inquire about organizing large group transportation.

The accompanying information fair is open to the public. There is no cost to visit the information fair.

Please visit our website at www.ocscoco.ca for bi-weekly updates on the Conference & Information Fair!

You can also contact Stacy Chung at communications-programs@ocscoco.ca or give her a call at 416-785-8570 ext 223.

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Calling all sponsors & exhibitors!



Are you an organization or business that provides services or sells products of interest to older people? Does your product or service improve the quality of life of an older person? Do you want to easily reach more than 250 retirees in 1 day?



If you answered yes, then become a sponsor or exhibitor by participating in Ontario's Premier Seniors' Conference & Information Fair. You can become 1 of 3 conference sponsors or an exhibitor or advertiser.

We are pleased to announce that all Educational Workshop Speaker sponsorships are now **sold** out! Still available is one Gold and one Bronze Conference sponsorship.



This informative educational event targets adults 55+ and offers many opportunities to promote your products and services directly to seniors, caregivers and community.



This is Ontario's only conference which is free of charge to registrants 55+. It attracts more than 250 attendees with groups coming by chartered bus from Peel

Region, Markham and across Toronto!



For more information on how you and your company can get involved, please email Stacy Chung at communications-programs@ocsc.ca or give her a call at 416-785-8570 ex 223.



Remember, **spaces are limited**. Our Sponsorship Prospectus is also posted at <http://www.ocsc.ca/signature-events>. To reserve your spot, connect with Stacy Chung.



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