



The pre-election revelations, accusations, and recriminations have come and gone – and good riddance to them. The federal Liberals will be the governing party, but as a minority. Canadians have told their parliamentarians to work together, so the Liberals will need to develop consensus with others, for example, the NDP.

Care Watch advocates for services to keep senior citizens at home and in their communities. Health services are, in general, provincial and territorial responsibilities, but are guided and supported by national frameworks and policies. Along with improved home care and community services, we have called for two new national policy frameworks – a seniors strategy and a pharmacare strategy. Both are springboards for work with the provinces.

Let's look at the Liberal and NDP platforms about: 1) home and community care and other services for seniors; 2) a seniors strategy; and 3) pharmacare. Platforms and promises, however, are only the bare beginnings, so we add some comments and questions about the next steps.

Our concern	From the Liberals	From the NDP	What now?
Home and community care and other services for seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to make home care and palliative care more available across the country Enhance Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, and Quebec Pension plan Strengthen elder abuse penalties in <i>Criminal Code</i> Improve data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize need for access to quality home care and long-term care for all Canadians Add national home care and long-term care standards to <i>Canada Health Act</i>; standards to be covered by provincial insurance plans Enhance Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan, Guaranteed Income Supplement, and Caregiver Tax Credit Increase affordable and accessible housing, transit, and community recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can the NDP's promises spark discussion and give life to the Liberals' vague statements about home care? How will the federal government work with provinces and territories on designated funding for home care and community services?
National seniors strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No commitment to develop a seniors strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to developing a seniors strategy (including dementia and elder abuse) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will parties agree to develop a seniors strategy? How will they work with provinces and territories to make it happen?
Pharmacare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Critical next steps" toward national pharmacare Canada Drug Agency to purchase medications more efficiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National, universal, public pharmacare \$10 billion to begin implementation in 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are these "critical next steps," and what will the results be? How will the federal government work with provinces and territories?

What can you do?

Care Watch expects all parliamentarians to work for the collective benefit of older Canadians. The 2019 federal election wasn't an endpoint, but one step in a process. Now the real work begins.

- **Stay informed about policies affecting seniors.** Check www.carewatchontario.com for more information and analysis. We will pass along what we learn.
- **Hold local representatives, leaders, and officials accountable.** Don't be satisfied with vague promises and funding announcements with no specifics. These people are accountable to you.

A brief summary of the PC, Liberal, NDP and Green parties' proposals respecting Care Watch's priority issues is posted for your information on our website at <https://carewatchontario.com/elections/federal-election-2019/>. We will continue to monitor and comment on the progress of these proposals during the forthcoming parliamentary session.



Notice of 2019 Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Sign-in will start at 3:30 pm.

Location: SPRINT Senior Care, 140 Merton Street, Toronto
Charlotte Maher Room, 2nd floor

Please register at info@carewatchontario.com and enter "AGM Registration" in the subject line or call (416) 590-0455. Space is limited. *Business Meeting* will consider the Minutes of the January 16, 2018 meeting and election of the Board of Directors. *Speaker* – Michael Nicin, National Seniors Strategy Post Election

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