



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

Editorial

ELECTION RECAP AND SSAO NEXT STEPS

March 3, 2025

Four More Years of Mass Institutionalization of Frail Elders

The Ford government has won another mandate for four years in spite of the majority of eligible voters in Ontario not having voted, and in spite of not receiving a majority of votes from those who did vote. [43% voted Conservative, meaning that 56% did not. The Conservatives now have 64.5% of the seats in the Ontario Legislature and 100% of the power.](#)

This government has consistently demonstrated that it prefers mass institutionalization of frail elders rather than addressing their wishes to remain in their own homes and communities with the necessary support.

Conservative voters appear to agree.

Unless the Federal government attaches conditions to health transfer payments requiring more investment in non-profit home and community care, it is highly likely that as we Boomers approach our 80's at least a third of us will follow our parents and grandparents into long-term care institutions in Ontario. More will "choose" MAID in the absence of in-home and community residential supports.

No Political Party in Ontario Supported Aging in Place

With another Conservative majority, continued advocacy for funding for in-home and community residential options for frail older adults with elected officials at the provincial level is unlikely to succeed.

None of the four provincial party leaders included aging in place as part of their election platforms, and none responded weeks ago to SSAO's request for information on aging in place in their platforms. This makes it unlikely that the Opposition will raise these issues either.

Lack of Political Action by Baby Boomers

Part of the reason for this is that the hoped for mobilization of the Baby Boomer generation has not occurred. Baby Boomers are not exerting what could be considerable political power - either with their elected representatives or at the polls. Political parties respond to public pressure. Absence of public pressure leads to absence of public policy changes.

The lack of political pressure by Baby Boomers has made SSAO's job much more difficult.

A New Focus by SSAO

Five years after 12 co-founders organized SSAO, this election result has demonstrated that it is time to change direction.

SSAO will continue its efforts to support progressive college and university researchers who are generating evidence on the effectiveness of innovative alternatives to institutionalization in order to inform policy and programming decisions.

SSAO will also continue to organize some, but fewer, online Zoom sessions.

Since SSAO's research and policy articles and editorials have done little to generate action by its membership at the local level, these mailouts will be significantly reduced. Being informed is one thing. Using information to effect change is another.

SSAO will also continue to have conversations with those in the civil service at the provincial and federal government levels who recognize the need for more progressive policies related to aging.

It is SSAO's hope that with new leadership at the federal level more can be achieved for older adults. But this will also require SSAO members to speak to their MP's and take a more active role when the federal election is called.

We each have a responsibility to be the change we want to see in the world. Unless we are the change, the world will not change.