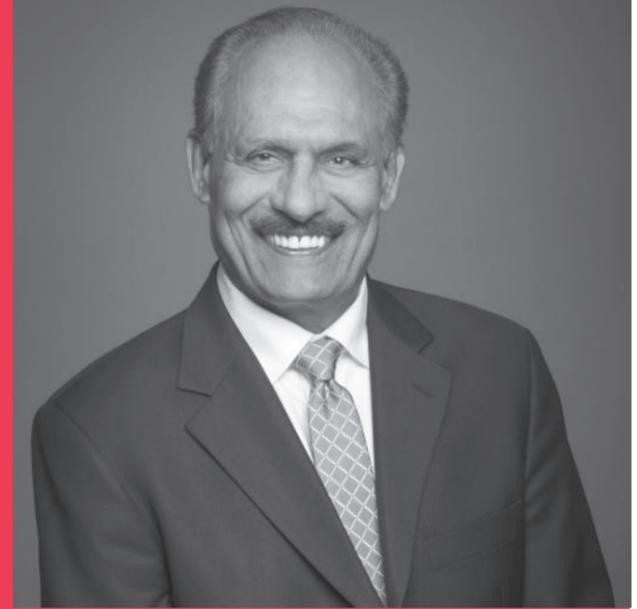


# Working Hard For Seniors

**JATI SIDHU**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**MISSION—MATSQUI—FRASER CANYON**

**CONSTITUENCY OFFICE**  
 (604) 814-5710

**PARLIAMENT HILL OFFICE**  
 (613) 992-1248



Dear Constituents,

One of the major roles of a Member of Parliament is to help shape national policies. Today I am asking constituents in Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon for their input on a ground-breaking policy initiative: the creation of a National Seniors Strategy.

Our government has been delivering positive results for seniors, from reducing the age of eligibility of Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) from 67 back to 65, increasing the GIS benefit for low income single seniors, and investing \$6 billion in homecare over the next six years. However, when we see the following facts it's very clear there is still work to be done:

- Canada's population of those 65 years of age and older is steadily increasing, as is their life expectancy. For the first time there are now more senior citizens than there are youth 15 years of age and younger.
- Seniors annual health care spending is an average of \$11,635, compared with \$2,663 for persons aged 15 to 64.
- By the year 2038, it's projected that senior citizens living in British Columbia will account for between 23.9% and 27% of the province's population, or roughly one in four of all BC residents.

I will be hosting town hall information sessions to discuss seniors' issues throughout the first two weeks of March, 2018. Planning is currently underway, but right now we are aiming to meet with constituents in Mission, Abbotsford, Agassiz, Lytton, Cache Creek, Ashcroft and Lillooet. We will be promoting the location, dates and times of these events through local community newspapers and also via social media: facebook.com/jatisidhuMP and twitter.com/MPJatiSidhu.

If you can't attend one of these sessions, I really want to hear from you. I urge any interested constituents or stakeholder groups that want to contribute their ideas to contact me. I'd be happy to get your feedback, either through correspondence or a face-to-face meeting. Further, I am also including a seniors' issues survey on the back page of this newsletter which can be mailed, postage-free, to either of my offices.

Going forward, this will be an increasingly important issue not only for seniors and caregivers in Mission-Matsqui-Fraser Canyon but for all Canadians, and it is a topic I am very passionate about. I would sincerely appreciate your involvement in this crucial project as we work towards a viable—and trail-blazing—National Seniors Strategy.

Best wishes,

Jati Sidhu, MP

## Constituency Office Services

Listed below you will find some of the services your Federal Constituency Office is able to assist you with:

- Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship inquiries
- Canada Revenue Agency
- Service Canada Inquiries (CPP, Old Age Security, Employment Insurance)

***Jati is pleased to provide certificates and congratulatory messages for significant achievements or milestones.***

***He also welcomes invitations to community events.***

### Constituency Office

**B3-32081 Lougheed Highway  
 Mission, BC  
 V2V 1A3**

**Office Hours: Monday to Friday,  
 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

***Please submit the details of your request to: [jati.sidhu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:jati.sidhu@parl.gc.ca)***



**[facebook.com/jatisidhuMP](https://www.facebook.com/jatisidhuMP)**



**[jsidhu.liberal.ca](http://jsidhu.liberal.ca)**



**[mpjatisidhu](https://www.instagram.com/mpjatisidhu)**



**GREETINGS**

**IMPROVING QUALITY  
 OF LIFE FOR SENIORS**

**M-106**

**NATIONAL  
 HOUSING STRATEGY**

**SURVEY ON  
 SENIOR'S ISSUES**

# Seniors: We Have Heard You and Taken Action



## Improving the Quality of Life for Seniors

- ✔ Improving access to healthcare and enabling seniors to stay in their homes by investing \$6 billion in home care over 10 years
- ✔ Increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) benefit for low income single seniors by up to \$947 per year
- ✔ Restored the age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and GIS to 65 years of age
- ✔ Supporting the creation of up to 12,000 new seniors housing units through the National Housing Strategy
- ✔ Supporting Canadians who care for a sick child or an aging parent by improving the Canada Caregiver Tax Credit and creating a new Employment Insurance (EI) Caregiving Benefit
- ✔ Strengthening the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and lowering prescription medication prices
- ✔ Enhancing social inclusion by improving the New Horizons Seniors Program

## Supporting Our Seniors: OAS & GIS

- Our government recognizes the enormous contributions of seniors to the building of our communities and our country. We have taken meaningful action to support seniors and increase their opportunities to maintain a good quality of living.
- To ensure that middle class seniors benefit from a secure, stable, and dignified retirement after a lifetime of work, we have restored the eligibility age for Old Age Security (OAS) to 65 after the previous government's decision to raise it to 67. Without those changes, our vulnerable seniors would have faced a much higher risk of living in poverty, which is not acceptable.
- To help lift thousands of low-income seniors out of poverty, we have introduced the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) top-up. Seniors who live alone will receive an extra \$947 per year through GIS, helping 900,000 vulnerable seniors across Canada, of which 70% are women.
- We passed legislation to enhance the Canada Pension Plan to improve the retirement income security of working age Canadians, who will be tomorrow's seniors. We are helping people to better plan for their retirement and improve their quality of life, now and in the future.



### Improving the quality of life for Canada's seniors

Restoring the age of eligibility for OAS and GIS from 67 to 65

Increasing the GIS top-up by up to \$947/year for vulnerable seniors

## M-106: National Seniors Strategy



*Our government supported the passage of M-106, which calls for the development of a National Seniors Strategy. As a result, the Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities is currently undertaking a study with a view towards the creation of this strategy. The Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities agreed to undertake a study of how the Government can support vulnerable seniors today while preparing for the diverse and growing seniors' population of tomorrow. I am looking forward to reading the committee's recommendations and report next year.*

### Major Themes Of The Study:

- How the Government can improve access to housing for seniors including aging in place and affordable and accessible housing;
- How the Government can improve the income security for vulnerable seniors; and
- How the Government can improve the overall quality of life and well-being for seniors including community programming, social inclusivity, social determinants of health.



### Why a Private Member Motion on Seniors?

- Based on population projections, the share of Canadians 65 and older will continue to rise. By 2024 they will account for 20.1% of the population.
- By 2036 seniors are expected to make up 25% of the population.
- People aged 85 years and over make up the fastest growing age group in Canada — this portion of the population grew by 127% between 1993 and 2013.
- Statistics Canada projects, based on a medium-growth scenario, there will be over 62,000 Canadians aged 100 and older by 2063.

## National Housing Strategy: Helping Canada's seniors and other vulnerable Canadians



### A Place to Call Home

Nothing is more important than home. While Canada has one of the best housing systems in the world, some 1.7 million families still don't have a home that meets their basic needs.

Canada's first-ever National Housing Strategy is meeting the needs of Canadians, including seniors, Indigenous Peoples, survivors of family violence, people with disabilities, refugees, veterans, and those grappling with homelessness. It is a 10-year, \$40-billion plan that will strengthen the middle class, fuel our economy and give more Canadians across the country a place to call home.

Through the National Housing Strategy, the federal government is re-engaging in affordable housing and bringing together the public, private and non-profit sectors to ensure more Canadians have a place to call home. Over the next decade, the National Housing Strategy will remove 530,000 families from housing need, cut chronic homelessness by 50% and change the face of housing in Canada forever.



**CANADA HOUSING  
BENEFIT**

PROVIDING HOUSING SUPPORT  
DIRECTLY TO CANADIANS

# Congratulations to the 2017 New Horizons for Seniors Program Grant Recipients:

The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) is a federal grants and contributions program that supports projects led or inspired by seniors who make a difference in the lives of others and their communities. Through the NHSP, the Government of Canada encourages seniors to share their knowledge, skills and experience to the benefit of others.

The objectives of the NHSP are:

- promoting volunteerism among seniors;
- engaging seniors in the community through mentoring of others;
- expanding awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse;
- supporting social participation and inclusion of seniors; and
- providing capital assistance for new and existing community projects and/or programs for seniors.

I want to thank all of the organizations that applied and received funding for the NHSP in Mission—Matsqui—Fraser Canyon.

Congratulations to the following organizations that were awarded the NHSP grant in 2017:

*Seabird Island Band, Agassiz-Harrison Museum, Kent Harrison SSCS aka Friendship House, Boston Bar North Bend Enhancement Society, Yale and District Ratepayers Association, Ucwalmicw Centre, Mission Friendship Centre Society, The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 66, Miyazaki House Society, Bridge River Valley Community Association, Spences Bridge Community Club, Cook's Ferry Indian Band, Agassiz-Harrison Community Services Society, Royal Canadian Legion Seaview*

## Seniors Survey: Please fill out the below survey and mail it back (no postage required)

1. In 2016, Statistics Canada reported that for the first time in history of the census, there were more Canadians aged 65 or older than Canadians aged 15 and younger. As seniors populations continue to grow, do you think a National Seniors Strategy will help address seniors issues in Canada?

 Yes No

2. In 2017, the Federal Government announced the National Housing Strategy which supports the creation of 12,000 new seniors housing units. Housing is an important seniors issue that the government recognizes, but the government also appreciates that there are other issues facing seniors today. In your opinion, could you please rank the following seniors issues in order of priority for you, in order to help MP Sidhu make legislation that represents you:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a. Financial Security for seniors.              | 1. _____ |
| b. Affordable Housing for seniors               | 2. _____ |
| c. Greater access to home care for seniors.     | 3. _____ |
| e. Further support for family caregivers.       | 4. _____ |
| d. Better access to health care and medication. | 5. _____ |

3. Canada's population of senior citizens, those aged 65 and older, is forecast to continue to grow. What do you think the most important issues are facing seniors in Canada today, and what further initiatives could the Federal Government consider?

---



---



---



---

4. Part of a National Seniors Strategy is finding ways for seniors to increase their participation in their communities. This includes increased engagement with programs, community activities, and to help advise decision makers on issues that matter most to them. Would you consider participating on a local Seniors Advisory Council to advise your Member of Parliament on seniors issues?

 Yes No

**Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Jati Sidhu, M.P.**  
**Confederation Bldg. Rm. 405**  
**Ottawa, ON**  
**K1A 0A6**

