



SENIOR LIBERALS' COMMISSION Policy Committee

2017-20 (September 2017)

FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS

WHEREAS: Senior Registered Liberals across Canada who participated in the 2017 SLC Policy Questionnaire identified the need to **“address the challenge of low income seniors, many of whom are dependent on OAS and GIS and are struggling to meet their basic daily needs”** as a priority issue for consideration during the next federal election campaign; and

WHEREAS: Statistics Canada reports that 14.7% of Canadian seniors fall within the definition of low income (less than 50% of the median income in their community) and that a significant portion of these low income seniors are over 80 and living alone with their only source of income being OAS and GIS; and

WHEREAS: the typical income of these low income seniors is insufficient to meet their daily needs, forcing them to make unreasonable tradeoffs among rent, food, medication and other essentials, sacrifices which impact their daily quality of life and health; and

WHEREAS: while recent adjustments by the Government of Canada to the GIS program are helpful, they are insufficient to protect low income seniors from the harmful limitations of low income living;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: that the Government of Canada provides leadership to develop a Canada-wide Guaranteed Annual Income program for low income seniors, with amounts tailored to their specific community, freeing them from the need to make unreasonable tradeoffs among their daily needs.

(232 words)

SLC National Policy Working Group on Low Income Seniors

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Reference: [SLC Policy Background Paper “The Need for Government Action to Address the Challenges of Low Income Seniors”](#) August 2017