

2017-21 (October 19, 2017)

ASSISTANCE TO LOW INCOME SENIORS

WHEREAS food costs contribute to the largest portion of monthly expenses for seniors and with the ever increasing price of fresh food like vegetables, fruits and meats, seniors' benefits such as OAS are not keeping up with the costs;

WHEREAS seniors with minimal use of English or French often find navigating the rules and regulations of social programs aggravating;

WHEREAS isolation due to limited alternatives of physical immobility has become a serious concern for many Canadian seniors and social interaction is important;

WHEREAS many seniors have been by-passed by the computer Revolution;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to provide greater assistance to low income seniors by:

- establishing a specific Food Index to replace the All-items index which would be more reflective of the food needs of Canadian seniors to keep up with their monthly expenses,
- encouraging the establishment of local community centres manned by volunteers and a professional in the field to provide up-to-date information on available senior programs,
- providing a tax incentive for families to build or extend a residential property to accommodate members of their family who are seniors to help overcome medical health costs associated with loneliness,
- developing teaching programs via television or community centres to make the use of computers more comfortable and less intimidating in order to open an interactive world of ideas, interests and history to stimulate the mind of seniors.

(241 words)

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Reference: [SLC Alberta Policy Paper "Assistance to Low Income Seniors"](#) October 19, 2017