

COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:

The Nova Scotia Chapter of C.A.R.P. was established in 2008 and now has over 10,000 members, 4 active committees, including the Health Advocacy Committee, and the Seniors Housing Committee, among others. C.A.R.P. is Canada's largest advocacy association for older Canadians promoting equitable access to health care, financial security, and freedom from ageism. Backed by more than 320,000 members, C.A.R.P. is a non-partisan association committed to working with all parties in government to advocate for older Canadians. Our mission is to advocate for better healthcare, financial security, and freedom from ageism.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed project aims to develop a knowledge mobilization and action plan to advocate for improved home care and long-term care in Nova Scotia. C.A.R.P. NS is finalizing a position paper on home care in Nova Scotia, yet we lack the capacity for strategic knowledge mobilization to get the position paper into the public domain. We would like to engage with the MacEachen Institute and their partners to assist us in amplifying key messages from the position paper to have maximum impact in the near-term on policy decision-making in this province.

Both home care and long-term care (LTC) have been under tremendous strain during the COVID-19 pandemic. Home care services have been drastically reduced due to COVID-19, data on the sector is limited and there has been very little attention dedicated to the problem. Many people have been left with no care and for others, the care has been drastically reduced and/or sporadic. The impact of COVID-19 has been much more visible in LTC facilities, accounting for nearly 11% of COVID-19 cases in Canada and over 70% of total deaths.

Continuing Care is not an understudied area, there have been at least 150 inquiries, parliamentary hearings, task forces and commissioned reports on the state of long-term care, home care and elder care (Globe and Mail). Yet there has been little progress to improve the sector and the experiences of people in continuing care. Action is required, and the unfortunate circumstances and outcomes that we witnessed during COVID-19 offer a policy window through which to advance this important discussion.

PROJECTED BENEFITS:

C.A.R.P. NS is a volunteer run organization and has a very limited budget. Knowledge mobilization work at the provincial level is beyond our capacity. Partnering with the MacEachen Institute would allow us to access their expertise in identifying access points to decision-making, engaging with the media, communicating in a timely, accessible, and usable format, and reaching a broad base of support.

The project would support us in characterizing the highly fragmented continuing care sector and to develop a more strategic approach to our advocacy work. It would also support the organization in maintaining public attention and public pressure on elected officials to implement changes to home care and long-term care with the goal of increasing the quality of life of elderly people.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal from 2021.