Dear [NAME],

​

​Thank you very much for your interest in the Green Party of Canada and our policies on senior care.

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This election, the Green Party is bringing seniors’ issues to the table. We are proposing a comprehensive [National Seniors Strategy](http://www.greenparty.ca/en/platform/strong-communities) for the challenges of ensuring that our seniors live full lives with autonomy, dignity, and security. As Elizabeth May [said](https://secure.greenparty.ca/en/media-release/2015-09-21/elizabeth-may-joins-canadian-medical-association-cma-call-improvements): “Reports from the OECD have shown the rate of seniors living in poverty is climbing. We support the Canadian Medical Association in their call for a National Seniors Strategy that lets seniors stay in their homes, allows them to remain active, and ensures their quality of life.”

This strategy will include:

* A Housing plan, with affordable, predictable home care support;
* A Guaranteed Livable Income to ensure no Canadian lives in poverty;
* Pharmacare – strongly benefits seniors;
* A National Dementia Strategy, including more long-term care beds in neighbourhood facilities;
* An approach that supports “aging in place”;
* Pension protection, expansion of CPP;
* Promotion of intergenerational programs that allow our kids – from toddlers to high school students – to visit seniors and develop relationships that have proven benefits to both generations;
* Convenient and safe public transport to support independent living;
* Access to the equity in homes to support day-to-day living expenses;
* Addressing the Supreme Court of Canada decision to allow physician-assisted death.

We believe that with cooperation and innovation, we can take care of the needs of our aging Canadians. The [CMA](https://www.cma.ca/En/Lists/Medias/2015-09-02-statement-e.pdf) has also recognized our plan as an important milestone in this election campaign.

[IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ORGANIZE A ROUNDTABLE]​

​I would be pleased to organize a roundtable event our riding. I have to emphasize how important this issue is for me and the Green Party of Canada. I know that supporting the choice to stay in their own homes is a smart one for our economy.

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I will let you know when we will be holding this roundtable. I look forward to seeing you there.

[IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ORGANIZE A ROUNDTABLE]

I am committed to discussing seniors issues with the people in our riding.

​Sincerely yours,

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I'm a proud supporter of the Canadian Medical Association's Demand a Plan campaign ([http://demandaplan.ca](http://demandaplan.ca/)). Seniors care is a ballot issue for me in the upcoming federal election.

Please tell me how you will ensure seniors get the care they deserve. The demographic shift will affect every region in Canada. And I am very concerned for my family and loved ones. <http://yourhealthsystem.cihi.ca/>

When Canada's universal public health system was set up 50 years ago, the average age of Canadians was 27 and today the average age is 41. Yet the system hasn't really changed much.

Today, 14% of Canada's population is over age 65. And seniors account for almost half of health costs. By 2036, those over 65 will make up a quarter of the population while accounting for 62% of our health costs.

Caring for someone in a hospital costs $1,000 a day, compared to long-term care at $130 a day and home care at $55 a day.

In 2012 it was reported that 461,000 Canadians were not getting the home care they thought they required; wait times for access to a long-term care facility in Canada ranged anywhere from 27 to over 230 days; and, as little as 16% of Canadians requiring palliative care actually received it.

I encourage you to discuss what this means for our community with the constituents in our riding by holding a roundtable. Already, more than 20 MPs and candidates from every major party have held such a meeting. The Canadian Medical Association has prepared a toolkit to help facilitate such an event and they would be happy to share these materials and work with you and your staff should you wish to schedule a roundtable discussion on seniors' issues.

I look forward to hearing more from you and your party on seniors care.

Thank you