



RWTO/OERO Social Justice Committee E-Newsletter – First Edition

The Transformer

Our Vision for Social Change

The RWTO/OERO Social Justice Committee is committed to creating positive social change by advancing justice, equality, and dignity for older adults. We aim to transform the aging process through empowerment, advocacy, and community engagement.

Introducing: “Strategies for Living Our Best Lives” Workshop Series

We are excited to announce a new five-part workshop series titled “**Strategies for Living Our Best Lives**” on Zoom. This series is designed to empower older adults with practical strategies, while also fostering a supportive and connected community. There is a limited number of available participants. **Registration closes November 15th.**

Workshop Series Preview

We invite you to take an early look at what’s in store for the “Strategies for Living Our Best Lives” workshop series by viewing our Workshop Preview Video. This short, two-minute video introduces the key themes and approach of the series, offering insight into the topics and strategies that will be covered.

To watch the preview, please visit: Leap CABHI Workshop 2024

<https://vimeo.com/kidoons/review/911238955/2fa28037dc>

Overview of the Virtual Five-Part Series

Sue Lantz from Collaborative Aging will guide participants through five key strategies drawn from her book, *Options Open*. Each session focuses on a fundamental area crucial to well-being and independence for older adults.

Your Health: Maintain Your Best Health

(Tuesday, November 25, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Zoom)

Prioritizing your health is essential. Focusing on maintaining your best physical, mental, and emotional health enables you to enjoy greater independence and quality of life as you age.

Your Home: Timely and Wise Housing Choices Change Everything

(Tuesday, January 20th, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Zoom)

Making thoughtful decisions about your living environment at the right time can have a profound impact on your comfort and security. Assessing your needs and planning ahead allows you to remain in a space that supports your lifestyle.

Your Social Network: Staying Connected Is Key

(Tuesday, March 24, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Zoom)

Maintaining strong connections with family, friends, and community is vital. Staying socially engaged helps prevent isolation and supports emotional well-being.

Your Caregiving Team: There Is an “I” in This Team

(Tuesday, May 12, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. on Zoom)

Building a caregiving team—whether it includes family, friends, or professionals—ensures you have the support you need. Remember, your voice and choices are central in this team.

Your Resources: Financial and Other Resources

(Tuesday, June 2nd, 1:30 – 3:00, in person and on Zoom from Western University)

Having access to financial and additional resources is crucial to maintaining your independence and meeting your needs. Being informed and proactive in managing your resources can make a significant difference.

Workshop Registration Details

To register for these workshops, please e-transfer \$20 to Linda Huffman, info@rwto.org for a PDF copy of the book *Options Open*. You will receive your copy after the first session. In addition, registered participants will receive a PDF summary and a video recording of the session, available for one week to all who attend. **Registration closes November 15th.**

The Changes that we want to see:

The Ottawa Village Canada (VC) Intergenerational Initiative

Village Canada (VC) is developing a new location on Confederation Heights property, owned by the federal government. The vision is for a large, Canadian-built, non-profit Village spanning several acres, reflecting Canadian society through its multi-generational, mixed-income, and inclusive design.

The proposed complex will provide comprehensive services to allow residents to age in place, regardless of their level of care needs. Currently, fourteen service agencies, community associations, and seniors' organizations are collaborating to develop the seniors intergenerational Village at 875 Heron Rd, located behind the RA (Recreation Association of the Public Service of Canada) Centre at the Data Centre property.

Why 875 Heron Rd is an Optimal Location

The RA Centre plans to offer a range of services for older adults, including fitness, healthcare, and community support. Its proximity to Billing's Bridge mall and transit lines ensures convenient access for residents. Additionally, a footbridge across the Rideau River connects Carleton University with Confederation Heights, passing through Vincent Massey Park, further enhancing accessibility and community integration.

Excerpt from [Seniors Social Action | Seniors for Social Action Ontario](#)

Groundbreaking News – Trent University

A transformative new chapter in aging studies begins at Trent University as peopleCare Communities along with the Minister of Long-Term Care Natalia Kusendova-Bashta marked the official groundbreaking on a 224-bed not-for-profit long-term care (LTC) home on Trent's Symons Campus, a milestone project that will address the region's urgent need for LTC beds while creating a hub for research, experiential learning, and intergenerational connection.

Trent University's role extends beyond place. As the academic and research partner, the University will connect discovery with care through the expertise of the Trent Centre for Aging & Society and faculty specializing in aging studies. Researchers will collaborate with residents and staff to advance approaches in elder care, ensuring that academic knowledge translates into meaningful improvements in quality of life.

Each year, more than 90 student placements will be offered to students in a variety of programs, including Nursing, Social Work, Kinesiology, Business Administration, and Sustainable Agriculture. These are productive opportunities to gain real-world experience working with older adults and take steps to achieve their professional aspirations.

As a designated Age-Friendly University, Trent University will also be inviting and encouraging residents of the LTC home to engage in university life and facilitating meaningful intergenerational connections on campus.

Excerpt from News and Events Page – Trent University, [New Chapter to Bring Long-term Care Home to Trent University Underway - News - Trent University](#)

View Global News <https://share.google/zbHfg00AL2zIXhuxU>

Program Designed for Dementia Patients

music care
by Room 217
CONFERENCES

Join us in-person or virtually

THE POWER OF A SONG IN DEMENTIA CARE

Friday November 14, 2025
Metalworks Institute, Mississauga ON

 <p>Taylor Kurta PhD Candidate University of Waterloo</p>	 <p>Bev Foster Executive Director Room 217 Foundation</p>	 <p>Dr. Lee Bartel Professor Emeritus in Music & Health</p>	 <p>Jill Barber Canada's Sweetheart Singer/Songwriter</p>
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Save the Date - Registration Opens May 20 - www.musiccareconference.com

Full Day Registration: \$160, Seniors \$95 + lunch, Virtual \$65

RWTO/OERO is a Supporter of Music Care Room 217 Ontario Grant Proposal:

Program Proposal:

We propose a province wide phased roll-out of MUSIC CARE CERTIFY program in long-term care. The MUSIC CARE CERTIFY program could be included in the Ontario Local Priorities Fund, the Flexible Fund, or as a phased roll-out through the 6 Ontario Health Regions.

In order to take advantage of the progress and momentum underway in Ontario Health Teams in Mississauga and Halton, and the potential of the first Centre of Excellence in Music and Dementia Care in that region, we recommend that Phase 1 begins in the Ontario Health Central Region in Spring 2026 as proof of concept and then rolled out into the other 5 regions.

September 2026 - Ontario Health Central Region – 129 LTC homes – \$5,095,500
September 2027 - Ontario Health Toronto, Northeast & Northwest – 133 (68+40+25) LTC homes - \$5,253,500
September 2028 - Ontario Health East – 167 LTC homes - \$6,596,500
September 2029 - Ontario Health West – 206 LTC homes - \$8,137,000
September 2030 - Accumulative Outcome Reporting and Ongoing recertification
TOTAL COST over 5 years: \$25,082,500

Advocating for a Federal Senior Advocate

In a letter to all Federal Political Party Leaders, RWTO/OERO advocated for the establishment of the **Federal Seniors Advocate** (FSA) in the current budget. This role would address elder abuse, improve access to healthcare services for seniors, and ensure systemic accountability through evidence-based investigations. In addition, it proposed the creation of an advisory council representing diverse stakeholders and emphasized the FSA's authority to require information from relevant organizations. RWTO called on all major political parties to support the initiative, stressing that the FSA will help the House of Commons allocate resources strategically to uphold seniors' dignity.

Success Stories from the Butterfly Approach

A FALL 2025 FCO EVENT

IT TAKES A WHOLE TEAM: SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE BUTTERFLY APPROACH

A sustainable culture of excellence in Long-term Care requires emotionally intelligent and dedicated leaders to nurture a whole-team approach. Learn how The Butterfly Approach is supporting homes to bring out the best in everyone living and working in Long-term Care and continuing to create success stories in Ontario.

[TINYURL.COM/YCXTH7CX](https://tinyurl.com/YCXTH7CX)

DATE: Wed, Oct 15, 2025

TIME: 12:00 PM EDT



REGISTRATION LINK OR LOCATION:
[TINYURL.COM/YCXTH7CX](https://tinyurl.com/YCXTH7CX)

EVENT PRESENTED BY:

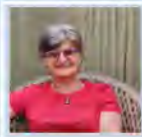


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[FCO.NGO](https://fco.ngo)



[CARP.CA](https://carp.ca)



Sally Knocker:

PgDip Dramatherapy, BA Law & Society

Sally has worked proudly with older adults for her entire career over 38 years which she believes comes from her formative relationship with her grandmother, who was an inspiring and wonderful woman. Sally is a Consultant Trainer with Meaningful Care Matters, an international organisation reducing institutional features of care, and motivating teams to create a real feeling of family and home, using the Butterfly Approach to dementia care. Sally is based in the UK, but she is married to a Canadian and has worked extensively with Butterfly projects in both Ontario and Alberta. She is the author of Loving: the essence of being a butterfly in dementia care.



Lindsay Marinovic:

Resident Experience Lead has more than 20 years of experience supporting older adults living in long-term care in both leadership and direct care roles. As Resident Experience Lead at The Elliott Community in Guelph Lindsay is leading impactful culture-change transformation through The Butterfly Approach. Prior to joining the team at The Elliott, Lindsay led the implementation and sustainability of The Butterfly Approach at Sunnyside Home, Region of Waterloo in Kitchener. Lindsay's interest and passion for supporting older adults with dementia to find joy, meaning and purpose every day has been a driving force throughout her career. She is grateful for the opportunity to share her experience and show that long-term care can look and feel like a real home and that a person-centred, emotion-focused model of care is both achievable and sustainable in Ontario.

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