

# Minister's Seniors Service Awards

## Nominee Summaries

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### Individual Award Nominees

An individual Albertan, or couple, of any age, who provides volunteer service, demonstrates philanthropy, or exhibits excellence to serve seniors in Alberta.

#### **Brooks-Medicine Hat: Michaela Glasgo, MLA**

##### **Kim Hill – Medicine Hat**

Kim stepped up to serve the seniors in her community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by reaching out daily to assess the needs of seniors in her family, and spending endless hours fulfilling those needs by way of grocery shopping, banking and making deliveries.

#### **Calgary-Buffalo: Joe Ceci, MLA**

##### **Frank Lam – Calgary**

Frank is the building manager of Oi Kwan Foundation for more than 150 seniors. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked day and night in the office to protect residents. He helped residents' physical and mental health by enlisting volunteers for groceries, so they would not have to go out. He also assigned outdoor areas to each family, so they could garden and relax at scheduled time periods to allow for physical distancing.

#### **Calgary-Glenmore: Whitney Issik, MLA**

##### **Donna Bennington – Calgary**

As the Chief Operating Officer for the Bow Centre Place Retirement Residence in Calgary, Donna worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of her tenants. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Donna swiftly implemented increased safety measures, delivered timely information, co-ordinated volunteers to transport tenants to medical appointments, and created an innovative system for tenants to be able to notify each other if they are not

feeling well. In addition, Donna co-ordinated youth to engage in regular telephone contact with seniors in the building, arranged food delivery services, and ensured sufficient personal protective equipment was available for all tenants.

#### **Barry Pendergast - Calgary**

As President of the Oakridge Seniors Association, Barry's vision is to build a village hub within a Calgary suburb to provide practical assistance, as well as social, cultural, and educational activities to help seniors remain in their homes. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped organize a Canada Day celebration, planned community gardens and a concert in the garden, while maintaining physical distancing requirements. He also created a database of vetted contractors for seniors, secured free computers and tablets for seniors, and taught seniors to use technology to stay connected.

#### **Calgary-Shaw: Honourable Rebecca Schulz, MLA**

##### **Salimah Walji-Shivji - Calgary**

Salimah is the Vice President, General Council and Head of Social Work for AgeCare. She created multiple unique programs to enrich the lives of seniors. She created a partnership with Alberta Health Services for individuals to transfer to AgeCare sites (providing a home-like setting) for their provision of Medical Assistance in Dying. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she converted a day program area to an open area with a bedroom to accommodate family members - while still allowing space for physical distancing. Furthermore, she designed alternative visiting programs and gained funding for technological devices to help residents stay connected.

### **Shengzhi Zhou – Calgary**

As President of Newland Senior Service Centre, Shengzhi led the board and volunteers to provide daily assistance, mental, and physical comfort to seniors aged 60+ in Calgary. Initiatives include raising funds for the McKenzie Towne Continuing Care Centre, purchasing and picking up groceries, and weekly virtual classes (yoga, square dancing, and singing).

### **Calgary-South East: Matt Jones, MLA**

#### **Jenna Jepson - Calgary**

As the Executive Director, Greater Forest Lawn 55+ Society, Jenna implemented creative programs to reach out to seniors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including daily tele-check ins, a healthy meal program, pen pal program (linking youth and older adults), and contactless activities (craft and activity bags). In addition, Jenna applied for and received financial support for programs and major renovation projects for the centre. She gained the co-operation of other seniors' organizations to implement many of their programs.

#### **Jim Moore – Calgary**

Eighteen years ago, Jim, Chief Executive Officer of the Calgary Dream Centre, converted the Hotel Calgary Nite Inn on Macleod Trail to a safe home, to guide individuals caught in the cycle of homelessness and addiction into lives filled with purpose. The centre since expanded to include 49 properties for transitional housing. Close to 8,000 men have gone through the building with tremendous results. The centre is equipped with professional counsellors, case managers, and front-line workers who genuinely care about the clients. Jim often makes the comment, "There is a lot of love here. We love them out of their addiction."

### **Calgary-Varsity: Honourable Jason Copping, MLA**

#### **Noel Desouza and Nicole Lefavre – Calgary**

As teachers and school liaisons at St. Vincent de Paul Elementary and Junior High school, Noel and Nicole help provide the "Linkages Program" that

reduces social isolation by creating intergenerational connections, shared learning, and friendship in 15 long-term care centres. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Noel and Nicole got creative to maintain connections between the students and seniors through heartfelt videos, cards, and email messages. They even connected a student to the family of a senior friend in the Brentwood Care Centre who had passed away, to let the family know how much the friendship meant.

### **Calgary-West: Mike Ellis, MLA**

#### **Surinderjit Singh Plaha – Calgary**

As a community leader and volunteer, Surinderjit "Stan" devoted thousands of hours to serving seniors and the community of North-Central Calgary. He began the North Calgary Cultural Association, which supports seniors and particularly new immigrants, and seeks to reduce their social isolation. They have weekly meetings, celebrations, and an annual sports day with a special 80+ age category. Stan is also a strong community advocate, spearheading the creation of a community garden, and ensuring seniors have technology to remain connected throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Drumheller-Stettler: Nate Horner, MLA**

#### **Michelle Haag – Hanna**

As lead of the Learning and Literacy department for the Hanna Learning Centre, Michelle provides individual hands-on support to seniors to apply for financial support programs and services, including filling out applications and ensuring all required documentation is submitted. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she also provided support to complete the Canada Emergency Response Benefit application for those who were eligible.

### **Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview: Deron Bilous, MLA**

#### **Deborah Miville – Edmonton**

Deborah has extensive work and volunteer experience with Edmonton's seniors' communities, and a strong commitment to the frail elderly. Deborah's social work and volunteerism has become her life's work, bringing French language

skills, international work experience, and humour to help elders through their most difficult scenarios. Deborah is always working hard to support the community.

#### **Edmonton-City Centre: David Shepherd, MLA**

##### **Nick Chrapko – Edmonton**

As the Director for Edmonton and area on the Alberta Council on Aging, Nick is dedicated to improving the lives of older adults. Nick is a representative on numerous committees (Age Friendly Edmonton, Stewardship Round Table, and Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council). Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he reached out to members with over 400 telephone calls to check-in. Nick is a senior himself, and also contributed a blog post for Seniors' Week – social media honoring older adults through dispelling myths. He is a dedicated and generous volunteer, and always keeps an eye out for those who need special attention and care.

##### **Elithea DeVillers – Edmonton**

From the outset of COVID-19, Elithea provided outstanding leadership in her role of Director of Health Services at Connecting Care. Elithea worked relentlessly to collect and refine guidance information from numerous sources into palatable pieces her teams could implement for approximately 2,400 residents, 1,350 employee care partners, and countless families and volunteers. Elithea has an outstanding commitment to seniors, as demonstrated by her desire to not only address their basic essential needs, but also her dedication to serving seniors daily.

##### **Jason Wild - Edmonton**

Over the years, Jason coached, mentored, and worked as a business consultant in the culinary field. With the increased demand for Edmonton Meals on Wheels services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Jason sprang into action and brought his 30 years of culinary experience to volunteer in their kitchen. Jason volunteered tirelessly and

professionally, as if it were his own kitchen, and truly made a lasting impact on clients in the community.

#### **Edmonton-Ellerslie: Rod Loyola, MLA**

##### **Balbir Singh Chana - Edmonton**

Balbir Singh has dedicated his life to selflessly serving others in the Sikh Temple and the broader Edmonton community. Serving as President of Gurdwara Millwoods, he ensured members of the community had a safe place to pray, eat, socialize, and carry on as normally as possible throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. He is regularly called upon to speak at weddings and funerals, and the impacts of his leadership, dedicated volunteerism, and commitment have rippled throughout the community over the years.

##### **Kimberly Buehler – Edmonton**

Kimberly is the Executive Director of the South East Edmonton Seniors Association. During her tenure, volunteerism increased, membership doubled, outreach and home services expanded, and the building underwent two additions and roughly 10 renovations to accommodate additional staff and expanded programming. Kimberly also opened up the South East Edmonton Seniors Association facility to other organizations in times of need. Kimberly volunteered hundreds of hours and contributed baked goods, sewn items, and silent auction items to fundraising ventures.

#### **Edmonton-Manning: Heather Sweet, MLA**

##### **Manwar Khan - Edmonton**

Manwar is the founder of the province-wide anti bullying and violence campaign "Don't be a Bystander." Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Manwar and his team of three volunteers began "I am there for you" telephone calls to seniors to maintain social interactions. He also takes the time to teach seniors how to use technology, and donated 30 care packages to seniors in his area throughout the pandemic.

**Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood: Janis Irwin, MLA**

**Angela Turturro – Edmonton**

Throughout her life, Angela has been a caregiver for seniors in her community. She provides companionship, baking, transportation assistance, and translation services. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Angela was no longer able to visit friends in Venta Care Centre in Edmonton, but that did not slow her down. She continued to ensure seniors in her community had groceries, medications, and rides to medical appointments. She also called the spouses and family members of those in the facility to ensure her friends' and neighbors' needs were met.

**Edmonton-McClung: Lorne Dach, MLA**

**Rifka Drelich – Edmonton**

As the head of the Kosher Zone, through the Chabed of Edmonton, Rifka demonstrates exemplary kindness by sending monthly gifts to help seniors feel supported and cared for during this unprecedented time. Her hard work has helped many seniors feel less alone.

**Edmonton-North West: David Eggen, MLA**

**Selma Karout - Edmonton**

Since 2015, Selma volunteered with the Al Rashid Mosque - Canadian Islamic Senior Society. As co-ordinator of the seniors' programs, she recommended unique and educational outings that were outside the box for many of the mostly immigrant seniors in the group. The senior group became vibrant with her presence. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued to connect to seniors by working on a cookbook with them via telephone, organizing hampers and food drives, and helping seniors seek financial support. The work she provides to her community is invaluable, and the appreciation of seniors in the community is evident on a daily basis.

**Edmonton-Rutherford: Richard Feehan, MLA**

**Jay Bardyla – Edmonton**

As a volunteer for Meals on Wheels Edmonton, Jay stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic. He

frequently volunteers for shifts (sometimes double shifts) and ensures no one is left without food - no matter how long or how far his route. As a long-time fan of comics, for the clients on his route Jay was a hero, delivering meals to help them stay independent, healthy, and protected.

**Edmonton-South: Thomas Dang, MLA**

**Tamara Sloboda- Edmonton**

Tamara is a Chartered Professional Accountant who volunteers with the Community Volunteer Income Tax program. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Tamara provided assistance to more than 100 Redwater and area residents to file their income tax returns, free-of-charge. She was able to find ways for them to sign necessary forms from their own home, alleviating the need to venture out during the pandemic. In doing so, Tamara ensured the seniors of Redwater were able to continue receiving benefits, such as GST and government pensions without interruption.

**Edmonton-South West: Honourable Kaycee Madu, QC, MLA**

**Katerina Hohnisch – Edmonton**

As a pathfinder in the Edmonton Girl Guides, Katerina led a service project to bring cheer to the seniors at Revera Riverbend Retirement Centre. Through her extraordinary efforts, Katerina crafted centrepieces, donated cookies, and collected and donated gift baskets. The co-ordination of gift baskets for Mothers' and Fathers' Days was no small feat: Katerina organized the donations of gifts, treats, handmade cards, crafts, and games. She delivered 100 baskets to the seniors' centre, bringing joy to residents and ensuring the seniors knew they were not alone.

**Edmonton-West Henday: Jon Carson, MLA**

**Dr. Haidong Liang – Edmonton**

As a gerontologist and the Executive Director for the Westend Seniors Activity Centre, Dr. Liang has repeatedly shown his passion for serving seniors. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, he and his team have been innovative, creating new programs

(free yarn, books, and puzzles), meal programs, and making check-in calls to seniors. Dr. Liang also created an eight-week fitness program seniors could do from home (featuring online videos and a handbook). He partnered with the Edmonton Seniors Centre and ICAN Seniors Association, to share staff and resources (serving over 3,500 seniors with online classes, an e-newsletter and tech support); partnered with Drive Happiness, to initiate a “We Deliver Happiness” campaign; and partnered with Home Care Assistance Edmonton, to provide dementia presentations and mind-fit training to seniors.

**Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche: Laila Goodridge, MLA**

**Amanda Beck - Fort McMurray**

Amanda is the assistant manager of seniors’ housing with Wood Buffalo Housing, working mainly out of the Rotary House Lodge in Fort McMurray. Amanda’s optimism and strong work ethic continues to help residents get through the COVID-19 pandemic and Fort McMurray flooding. While seniors were evacuated, she worked long days to ensure they were cared for. She also organized a treat cart, family social distance visits, and staggered meal times to assist the seniors.

**Ingrid Blasius - Fort McMurray**

Ingrid is the manager of seniors’ housing with Wood Buffalo Housing, working mainly out of the Rotary House Lodge in Fort McMurray. She led her team throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and evacuated three seniors’ facilities in downtown Fort McMurray during the 2020 flood. She worked countless hours to oversee the care of the evacuated seniors, making sure they had enough water and clothing. During the return to their facilities, Ingrid found many ways to lift the spirits of residents.

**Gwen Leepart - Fort McMurray**

As a dedicated volunteer at the Golden Years Society in Fort McMurray and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Gwen helped with kitchen duties, the craft room, and raised \$40,000 through a series of raffles. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued to volunteer by baking pies for events,

selling 50/50 tickets, and making items for the craft store. Gwen has a history of volunteering throughout her life for a variety of organizations in the community, and was recognized as the 2019 female Senior of the Year for the Wood Buffalo Region by peers and the community.

**Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville:**

**Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA**

**Inga Anderson – Fort Saskatchewan**

As a resident of Dr. Turner Lodge in Fort Saskatchewan, Inga goes out of her way to bring joy to the lives of others. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Inga’s positive spirit and kindness have been inspirational – from notes to fellow residents and staff letting them know they are cared for, to engaging staff during daily announcements. Inga has rallied staff and residents in rounds of applause following pandemic updates to lift their spirits and raise morale. Thanks to the kind and loving actions of Inga, Dr. Turner Lodge is a more joyful place.

**Grande Prairie: Honourable Tracy Allard, MLA**

**Wendy Doucet – Grande Prairie**

Wendy tirelessly serves the residents at the Grande Spirit Foundation through her volunteer work. Her outstanding service helped increase staffing requirements and improve service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Wendy assists in various roles, including helping with dinners, special events, and food and medication deliveries.

**Highwood: R.J. Sigurdson, MLA**

**Emily Walker – Okotoks**

Emily and her dog, Skittles, are volunteers at the Heartland Retirement Residence in Okotoks. Through the pet therapy program, Emily and Skittles provide joy and companionship through their visitations. As co-director of the resident voice choir, Emily also provides musical entertainment. She further helps residents by serving meals, accompanying residents to activities, and being a strong community advocate.

### **Leduc-Beaumont: Brad Rutherford, MLA**

#### **Liza Bouchard - Edmonton**

As the Executive Director of Drive Happiness, a seniors' transportation organization, Liza has kept the operations going throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring safety measures are in place for both volunteers and seniors. This provided seniors with essential safe transportation, including rides to medical appointments, grocery deliveries, and prescriptions for seniors. These essential services not only provided seniors with essential transportation, but a much-needed opportunity for social interaction.

#### **Nancy Laing – Leduc**

Nancy is the Executive Director of the Leduc Regional Housing Foundation. Under her exemplary leadership, the foundation has grown and evolved. Nancy is a visionary with great compassion for residents. She encouraged the recognition of housing management bodies as the non-market housing experts. Through her leadership, Leduc's Regional Affordable Housing planning model was embraced. She represented the foundation to municipal and provincial governments, and partnered with Habitat for Humanity Edmonton to facilitate building five homes in the community.

### **Lesser Slave Lake: Pat Rehn, MLA**

#### **Ruth Reay - Smith**

Ruth has been a pillar within her community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. She ensured the seniors in Smith and surrounding area did not have to worry about food security. Ruth did all the grocery shopping for over 50 hampers each week, which were donated to seniors in and around the nearest town, 75 kilometres away. In addition, she continually looks for ways to engage, educate, and enhance the quality of life of seniors in her community.

#### **Gwen Zwick - Canyon Creek**

As temporary lodge manager of Vanderwell Heritage Place, Gwen provided exceptional support, leadership, and encouragement to seniors and staff

during this difficult time. She personally ensured seniors' needs were met, set up several ways for seniors to communicate with family and friends (video chats, telephone calls, and window visits), and also set up a social media page to keep family updated on changes in the lodge.

### **Lethbridge-East: Nathan Neudorf, MLA**

#### **Charlene Fletcher – Lethbridge**

As the Seniors and Intergenerational Program Developer for Chinook Arch Regional Library System, Charlene provided unique and creative programming across southwest Alberta, engaging both seniors and youth. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Charlene was instrumental in transitioning programming to digital platforms, and created a safe delivery program. Charlene also created activity packs and videos for seniors' engagement, which were sent to 400 seniors.

### **Livingstone-Macleod: Roger Reid, MLA**

#### **Lori Flander – Nanton**

Lori is a Community Support Worker at Nanton Quality of Life Foundation, who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure seniors are cared and provided for. She takes the time to listen and provide comfort to seniors in all her daily interactions. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Lori reached out to seniors to offer additional supports and cheer. For seniors in Nanton who were isolated during the pandemic, these telephone calls were sometimes the only communication in their day. She remembers small details about each senior she interacts with, like hearing challenges and mobility needs.

#### **Richard Rogers - Nanton**

Richard serves on the volunteer board of the Mosquito Creek Foundation. Now retired, Richard dedicated 10 years and hundreds of hours of service to the seniors at the lodge. Due to his efforts, the seniors of Silver Willow Lodge were better prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic. His unflinching service to the seniors of Nanton kept them safe. His efforts to create the best possible environment for the residents during the pandemic meant the Silver

Willow Lodge could effectively prepare for any future crisis.

**Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin: Honourable Rick Wilson, MLA**

**Theresa Grandmond - Wetaskiwin**

Theresa is the owner of Ladybug Support Services in Wetaskiwin. Theresa goes above and beyond the call of duty to help seniors in her community by providing companionship, hospital visits, telephone check-ins, personal shopping, and housekeeping. Theresa ensures seniors in her community feel connected, safe, and cared for.

**Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills: Honourable Nathan Cooper, MLA**

**Denis Hamel – Carbon**

Denis is an outstanding volunteer with the Seniors Outreach Program in Carbon. Denis dedicated many hours to ensure seniors and community members had food throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Using his own fuel, he drove from Carbon to Strathmore every two weeks to pick up frozen meals and deliver them to individuals in need. Denis also met other volunteers along the highway to help them distribute meals to individuals throughout the region.

**Doreen Whitenett – Trochu**

Doreen's compassion and willingness to help others has made her an exemplary volunteer driver for Seniors Outreach in Kneehill County. Last year, Doreen put in over 500 hours driving clients. She helps clients with mobility issues purchase groceries, medications, and put items away, and has helped clients move into a lodge. She also caters for the Red Deer Shriners, bakes, and makes jam for fundraisers.

**Red Deer-South: Jason Stephan, MLA**

**Wendy Evans – Red Deer**

Wendy provided outstanding service to seniors throughout her 15-year nursing career. Wendy has a passion for geriatric medicine, and is the Geriatric Assessment Nurse with the Wolf Creek Primary Care Network. Wendy is a founding member of the

Specialized Geriatric Services in Red Deer, and was responsible for developing the Healthy Aging Program clinical pathway. Wendy is one of several members of the Innisfail Community Partners in Action that has raised the bar for dementia care in the community.

**St. Albert: Marie Renaud, MLA**

**Kelsey Nuttall – St. Albert**

As manager of Revera River Ridge, Kelsey worked hard to foster a sense of community. He is a true leader who makes time for residents with an open door policy. He also goes above and beyond by helping to run errands, move suites, deliver packages, and engage in various activities. Through innovative programming, such as the "Call Bell for a Hug" program, he brings an invaluable sense of togetherness to residents and staff, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Taber-Warner: Honourable Grant Hunter, MLA**

**Colleen Belter - Coaldale**

As the Activity Coordinator at the Sunny South Lodge for the past 22 years, Colleen worked hard to create a comforting and enjoyable environment for residents. Colleen began creating a series of programs for the residents in 1998. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she found alternative means to maintain activities. Colleen organized live entertainment outside of the building so the residents could listen from inside. Colleen is also a dedicated volunteer in the community with the Coaldale Food Bank, and annual Family Day pancake breakfast.

**Kori Kuryvial - Cranford**

As a Senior Service Coordinator for Barons-Eureka-Warner Family and Community Support Services for the past eight years, Kori has been instrumental in planning seniors' conferences and intergenerational programs. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Kori stayed connected to seniors with weekly telephone calls, emails, and texts. Kori assisted in setting up a seniors' telephone tree, to ensure isolated seniors have regular contact. She was also part of the

committee that planned a Seniors' Week physically distanced parking lot party.

### **Corinna Roth-Beacome – Bow Island**

Corinna has gone above and beyond to help seniors within the County of Forty Mile. She successfully secured grant funding to launch a Meals on Wheels program for rural seniors and hire translators, to ensure no one was left behind throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Corinna ensures seniors have needed supports, helping with financial applications, volunteering with the community tax program, and delivering food bank hampers. She has further supported seniors by delivering essential items (medication, masks, and groceries) and checking in with seniors by telephone.

### **Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright: Garth Rowswell, MLA**

#### **Brenda Lee - Vermilion**

As the Chair of the Living Well Campaign, Brenda and her committee have raised \$1.5 million over the past three years to bridge the gap in funding for the Vermilion & District Housing Foundation lodge expansion project. Along with lodge staff and the board of directors, she ensured all donors received recognition. Additionally, she dedicated years and countless hours as a member of the Rotary Club, to ensure an enhanced quality of life for our aging population.

#### **Brittany Lysons - Vermilion**

As the Recreation Director at the Vermilion Valley Lodge, Brittany serves residents, families, and the community through her exemplary leadership. She is a tireless advocate for the community, and organized and hosted numerous special events. Brittany has shown innovation in programming to create safe and fun activities to enrich diversity and inclusion, and promote meaningful consultations with stakeholders, residents, and families. A favourite activity among residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been "Bingo in the Hallways" – a creative game to ensure residents are having fun, while practicing physical distancing.

### **West Yellowhead: Martin Long, MLA**

#### **Ivan Strang – Edson**

Ivan has a dedicated history of service to his community as a prior MLA for West Yellowhead, a member of the town council, and as Mayor of Edson. He has continued to advocate for those in need, specifically seniors, even after retiring from public service and politics. Due to his tireless efforts, the Parkland Lodge Seniors' Care home was able to invest in much needed furniture. He created and managed the Parkland Lodge furniture fund committee's multi-year fundraising drive, which surpassed its initial goal of \$250,000. Ivan continues to serve as the Lodge's Auxiliary President.



## Organization Award Nominees

An Alberta nonprofit organization that exhibits excellence in innovation and outstanding service to Alberta's seniors.

### **Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul: David Hanson, MLA**

#### **Cold Lake Meals on Wheels – Cold Lake**

Cold Lake Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers deliver much more than a nutritious meal to seniors; they also provide a friendly smile, contact with the outside world, and the dignity to safely age in community. The volunteers at Cold Lake Meals on Wheels are undeterred by weather. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, these volunteers continued to serve clients without hesitation. These deliveries helped to address social isolation among seniors in the area.

### **Calgary-Acadia: Honourable Tyler Shandro, MLA**

#### **Club 36 Adult Day Program of the Alzheimer Society of Calgary**

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, individuals living with dementia were unable to attend Club 36, to have direct contact with staff at the Alzheimer Society of Calgary and other seniors with dementia. While in-person visits were unavailable for Club 36, staff adapted their programming for members and their caregivers by offering activities online. They also provided assistance with getting prescriptions, groceries, and other items.

### **Calgary-Buffalo: Joe Ceci, MLA**

#### **Calgary Immigrant Women's Association**

Senior volunteers within the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association's Arts and Crafts program have sewn 1,000 face masks from their own homes, which were distributed to front line workers and volunteers who interacted with vulnerable Albertans. Through the tireless efforts of these volunteers working over 2,200 hours, more than 15 agencies received essential personal protective equipment.

### **Grace Quilters Ministry – Calgary**

Based out of Grace Presbyterian Church, the Grace Quilters are a group of volunteers (mostly seniors) that use quilting as a means of engaging with their church and the broader community. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grace Quilters have sewn over 300 masks for the community, which were given to local seniors and other individuals in need. Since 2004, the Grace Quilters donated over 800 full-sized, handmade quilts to a variety of individuals and causes.

### **Calgary-East: Peter Singh, MLA**

#### **Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association**

The Calgary Vietnamese Canadian Association stepped up when it recognized community seniors were in need, reaching out to a local congregate living facility (Silvera) to offer support. After Silvera identified personal protective equipment as an urgent need, members of the association made and provided hundreds of masks in a few short days. The care and love placed into every sewn mask made a difference in the lives of the residents.

### **Calgary-Edgemont: Honourable Prasad Panda, MLA**

#### **MPC Foundation – Calgary**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MPC Foundation hosted meetings in and around its community to help multicultural seniors in north Calgary stay connected. When the pandemic hit, without hesitation, the MPC Foundation shifted these meetings online to continue this important service. It ensured seniors understood how to access their programs virtually, continually coaching them over the telephone to get them connected. The MPC Foundation continues to host seven to nine online activities weekly, supporting the wellness of seniors in the community.

### **Calgary-Falconridge: Devinder Toor, MLA**

#### **Ismaili Muslim Community – Calgary**

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ismaili Muslim Community quickly established a crisis support line for members of the community to call in

to request assistance with grocery and medication delivery, and assistance with technology. It also provided online programming to cater to the needs of seniors, mobilizing over 200 volunteers who committed to making weekly telephone calls to over 2,000 seniors to inquire if they needed support. During Seniors' Week, volunteers sewed thousands of face masks that benefitted local nonprofit organizations.

**Calgary-Fish Creek: Richard Gotfried, MLA**

**Oi Kwan Foundation – Calgary**

Since March 2020, efforts were made to limit exposure to, and screen, visitors. Residents of Wai Kwan Manor were provided groceries by volunteers, and the younger residents of the manor organized a meal order/take out service to help self-isolating seniors. The manor also established an outdoor community garden and table tennis to keep self-isolating seniors connected and active.

**Calgary-Glenmore: Whitney Issik, MLA**

**Oakridge Seniors Association – Calgary**

The Oakridge Seniors Association established a vibrant seniors-oriented Village Hub, and continues to have an impact on the lives of all seniors living in the community. The Oakridge Seniors Association is member-driven and provides practical assistance, as well as social, cultural, and educational activities, enabling individuals to age in their homes. Its vision is to help older adults enjoy a network of friends and activities to alleviate loneliness, social isolation, and lack of supports. With 250 contacts and 75 paid members, activities include monthly learning and social gatherings, Tai Chi classes, bridge, coffee, walking groups, and a monthly e-newsletter. Even throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oakridge Seniors Association continued telephone check-ins, sharing videos and updates from individuals' homes, and helped set up technology and equipment for those without access to virtual seniors' programming.

**Calgary-Mountain View: Kathleen Ganley, MLA**

**Chinese Christian Wing Kei Nursing Home Association – Calgary**

Wing Kei provides outstanding service and excellent quality care. With a consistent message of "We act with love, not fear," Wing Kei closely partners with the families of residents in its care. Before the pandemic was declared by the World Health Organization, Wing Kei was already preparing and acting. It formed a special committee that included the medical director, which met daily to review and assess new information about the virus and take appropriate action. Throughout the pandemic, Wing Kei staff have demonstrated thoughtfulness and thoroughness in all their decisions. They have also organized events to lift the spirits of residents, like parades and a curb side opera.

**Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre – Calgary**

Confederation Park 55+ Activity Centre in Calgary received three outstanding nominations for its management team, staff, and its tea and conversation program. Confederation Park provided dedicated and outstanding service to seniors and members, to ensure their well-being. It has engaged seniors through social events, entertainment, and luncheons; nurtured physical health through fitness programs and clubs; recognized and promoted seniors through videos and radio; undertaken facility improvements; and encouraged volunteerism. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization revised programming to ensure the safety of seniors, initiated a food delivery program, implemented a telephone buddy initiative to provide wellness checks, and ensured frequent and timely communication.

**Calgary-Peigan: Tanya Fir, MLA**

**Bethany Care Foundation – Calgary**

Since March 2020, the Bethany Care Foundation raised over \$500,000 to support the fight against COVID-19. This funding helped the foundation to provide, among other items, iPads to facilitate virtual visits between residents and families, a smart television, social isolation kits for shut-in residents,

and seven 70" IN2L portable touch screen units for sensory programming.

### **Greater Forest Lawn – Calgary**

The Greater Forest Lawn Society offers a variety of programming for seniors, such as art classes, bingo, line dancing, and Chen Tai Chi. It also helped seniors with filing their taxes. Despite closing its physical doors during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Greater Forest Lawn Society continued caring for local seniors. It remained in communication with seniors, provided treats and meals, and continued with its newsletter. The society is currently looking at a “new normal” way of providing programming to seniors.

### **Camrose: Jackie Lovely, MLA**

#### **Service Options for Seniors (S.O.S Program) – Camrose**

The S.O.S. Program informs, empowers, and connects seniors to new and existing programs, services, and resources at federal, provincial, and local levels. It supports seniors as active participants in the community by increasing and strengthening their independence, coping skills, and resistance to crisis. It does this through a number of programs and services, such as tax programs, completion of documents, referrals, and advocacy. It remained open throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to provide services and support to seniors in Camrose.

### **Rosealta Lodge – Camrose**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rosealta Lodge strived to keep residents safe and their spirits up. Lodge staff were quick to ensure proper protocols and screening were in place. The lodge also recognized the importance of connection and merriment, so staff dressed up in costumes to bring smiles and laughter to residents. The lodge adapted programming so exercises and prayer were done in doorways to keep residents engaged, while still maintaining physical distancing. Entertainment was provided outside the windows of the lodge, so residents inside could participate.

### **Cardston-Siksika: Joseph Schow, MLA**

#### **Siksika Elders Lodge – City**

Siksika Health Services has been swift and proactive in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The Siksika Elders Lodge maintained frequent, consistent, and transparent communication with residents and their family members. Residents are communicating with family and friends via video calls. The Siksika Elders Lodge continues to meet the holistic health needs of residents, as they are encouraged to safely gather daily to participate in ceremony, smudge, and prayer. In addition, an email address has been established for community members to send “cyber hugs” to residents living in the lodge.

### **Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview: Deron Bilous, MLA**

#### **Somali Canadian Women and Children Association – Edmonton**

The Somali Canadian Women and Children Association worked with the local community in Edmonton to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through creative and innovative programs that, among other things, address seniors’ needs during emergency. The program delivered over 700 food security packages to seniors and vulnerable communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Edmonton-City Centre: David Shepherd, MLA**

#### **Edmonton Seniors Centre – Edmonton**

In March 2020, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edmonton Seniors Centre began purchasing professional software licenses and shifting all of its programming online. In September 2020, the Edmonton Seniors Centre had 21 virtual programs available to seniors, which are also available to communities outside of Edmonton.

### **YEG Seniors Alliance – Edmonton**

The YEG Seniors Alliance members are Edmonton Seniors Centre, Westend Seniors Activity Centre, and ICAN Seniors Association. This alliance was formed in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the effect of the pandemic on seniors’ centres and the lives of individual seniors.

The goal of the Alliance was for its members to identify synergies that were most effective and relevant in helping seniors deal with the limitations of the pandemic, in areas such as food security, isolation, virtual programming, personal protective equipment, and transportation. The YEG Seniors Alliance worked to share and maximize resources to meet the needs of vulnerable seniors.

**Edmonton-Decore: Chris Nielsen, MLA**

**Council for Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta – Edmonton**

Known as the Africa Centre, the Council for Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta has served as a hub for community members to address food insecurity and to provide supports to diverse demographics of Edmontonians, including seniors of African descent. Additionally, the Africa Centre, in partnership with SAGE, continues to address social isolation among seniors of African descent, as the seniors of this community require culturally appropriate supports and services. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Africa Centre provided virtual, culturally appropriate social gatherings to lessen loneliness and social isolation. It also mobilized its volunteers to deliver food hampers to vulnerable and isolated seniors and community members.

**Edmonton-Glenora: Sarah Hoffman, MLA**

**The Joy4All Project of Ever Active Schools – Edmonton**

Joy4All Project of Ever Active Schools is a toll-free hotline that includes jokes, stories, and messages of kindness pre-recorded by youth. New messages are recorded each day, and seniors are able to dial in at any time to hear from youth across Alberta. This innovative intergenerational project helps seniors feel more connected.

**Edmonton-Gold Bar: Marlin Schmidt, MLA**

**Drive Happiness – Edmonton**

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Drive Happiness remained open for business to serve the community. It worked around the clock to maintain

operations, ensuring safety measures and co-ordinating with volunteers and seniors to provide essential services, such as rides to medical appointments and grocery deliveries. The services and dedication of staff at Drive Happiness ensured vulnerable Albertans had access to food and transportation during this unprecedented time.

**Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council Coordinated Pandemic Response Group – Edmonton**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of seniors-serving organizations in Edmonton came together to form the Edmonton Coordinated Pandemic Response Group. Through the backbone support of the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council, this group quickly established three distinct task groups to respond to the needs of seniors in Edmonton. The formation of this co-ordinated response has created a structure the community-based seniors-serving sector can use to work together quickly if the need arises again. The group continues to work closely to co-ordinate virtual programming, outreach services, and delivery of goods and services throughout the fall.

**Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood: Janis Irwin, MLA**

**ASSIST Community Services Centre – Edmonton**

The ASSIST Community Services Centre works diligently to foster community among Canadian newcomers and their families. Immigrant seniors can be at risk for social isolation or abuse if they are not connected with the broader community and its resources. ASSIST offers free drop-in programming for seniors on Tuesday and Thursdays, including computer/iPad learning, English conversation, Tai Chi, ping-pong, calligraphy, pencil sketch, guitar, and karaoke. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, ASSIST continued to offer services virtually.

**Edmonton-Mill Woods: Christina Gray, MLA**

**Hope City Church – Edmonton**

Hope City Church exemplifies outstanding service, and philanthropy, extending itself continually to vulnerable populations. It assisted seniors who

found themselves isolated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. A team of Hope City Church staff and volunteers contacted 300+ seniors to offer support, prayer, and grocery and pharmacy pick-up. They continue to offer these supports to seniors in the Edmonton area.

#### **The Shaama Centre – Edmonton**

The Shaama Centre is committed to ensuring the mental and physical health of seniors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It established new procedures to help seniors, and has shifted programming from in-person to virtual. It also delivered free food hampers and cooked meals, provided opportunities for safe social interaction (such as gardening), and helped individuals with completing tax returns and other government forms.

#### **Edmonton-Riverview: Lori Sigurdson, MLA**

##### **West Edmonton Primary Care Network (Frail Elderly Team) – Edmonton**

The Frail Elderly Outreach Program was developed in 2015, to support and provide home-based primary care to the frail community-dwelling seniors of the Edmonton West Primary Care Network. It is a multidisciplinary team comprised of a nurse practitioner, registered nurse, occupational therapist, pharmacist, and occupational therapy assistant. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the team continued to provide essential services to support vulnerable Albertans.

#### **Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche: Laila Goodridge, MLA**

##### **Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council**

For close to 18 years, The Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council (AEAAC) worked diligently to raise awareness about elder abuse. The AEAAC adapted its services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, to maintain communication with seniors in need. This group is dedicated, passionate, and committed to helping older adults across Alberta.

#### **Fort McMurray Golden Years Society – Fort McMurray**

The Golden Years Society provided an important service to seniors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the flood – a suite of virtual programming to keep seniors occupied. Programming included virtual chair yoga, mindfulness meditation, coffee time, Zoom practice and painting. Its co-ordinator called members to check on their well-being and offer support. The Golden Years Society also helped members obtain emergency funding.

#### **Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville: Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA**

##### **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 39 – Vegreville**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 39 expanded its efforts to maintain contact with the veterans it served, through telephone or other electronic means. The branch has a history of providing direct financial support or volunteer labour. A volunteer service officer within the branch maintained contact with area veterans and their surviving spouses, ready to assist in any way possible, including making out-of-town trips to pick up meals. In addition to supporting veterans, the branch is actively involved in supporting its community.

#### **Livingstone-Macleod: Roger Reid, MLA**

##### **Westwinds Communities – High River**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Westwinds Communities provided regular communication to lodge residents, families, and employees on its response. It does its best to alleviate residents' stress through a variety of unique programming. When visiting restrictions were reduced, Westwinds Communities offered three types of visits - window visits, walking visits, and designated seated visits - available anytime without appointment.

**Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills:  
Honourable Nathan Cooper, MLA**

**Seniors Outreach Program Society – Three Hills**

Supporting seniors in Kneehill County, the Seniors Outreach Program Society provides transportation, educational sessions, care visits and calls, Meals on Wheels, and intergenerational programming. The Seniors Outreach Program Society continued to safely provide many services and programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Red Deer-South: Jason Stephan, MLA**

**Golden Circle Senior Resource Centre Volunteer Team – Red Deer**

The Volunteer Team at the Golden Circle Senior Resource Centre actively supported the Red Deer Community throughout the COVID 19 pandemic – it delivered groceries and frozen meals, transported seniors to medical appointments, and provided friendly telephone calls. Without the Volunteer Team, these services would not be available to seniors in the community.

**Sherwood Park: Jordan Walker, MLA**

**Linking Generations Society of Alberta – Sherwood Park**

Linking Generations Society of Alberta enriches the lives of youths and seniors by providing programming that allows them to connect in meaningful ways. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Linking Generations stepped up to ensure seniors felt connected by creating a letter-writing program where participating students wrote weekly letters to seniors. Virtual video calls were also held between students and seniors to ensure seniors felt cared for, valued, and connected.

**Sherwood Park: Jordan Walker, MLA**

**Volunteer Strathcona Centre – Sherwood Park**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Volunteer Strathcona developed and launched an innovative program (COVID-19 Emergency Community Program) addressing the needs of isolated seniors. Through this program, Volunteer Strathcona has

been able to better co-ordinate volunteers to provide essential services to seniors in the community. Initially, the program offered grocery delivery, prescription delivery, and compassionate calls, but the program adapted and added additional services to meet the needs identified by seniors in the community.

**Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright:  
Garth Rowswell, MLA**

**Battle River Lodge – Wainwright**

Staff at the Battle River Lodge in Wainwright stepped up during these difficult times and exceeded expectations, to ensure lodge residents were cared for. Staff went out of their way to drive residents to medical appointments, deliver medications, and assist with online forms. While staff are providing additional services above and beyond their job descriptions, they still find the time to provide an inviting atmosphere for residents.

## Business Award Nominees

An Alberta business or corporation that exhibits excellence in innovation or philanthropy in support of Alberta's seniors.

### **Calgary-Buffalo: Joe Ceci, MLA**

#### **Chartered Professional Accountants of Alberta – Calgary**

Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Alberta assured that, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, seniors could confidently file their taxes in time so as not to lose benefits from other income support programs. In response to the pandemic, CPA Alberta quickly shifted its traditional in-person volunteer tax assistance program to a virtual one. It brought together seniors-service providers to share information about tax filing solutions, various resources, and available services in order to meet the June 1 filing date.

### **Clover Living – Calgary**

Clover Living uniquely serves Cantonese-, Mandarin-, and English-speaking seniors at its congregate living facility in Calgary's Chinatown. Clover Living makes a positive difference in the lives of seniors by embodying partnership and a person-centered culture. Clover Living's team is committed and dedicated to serving seniors by adopting Alberta Health standards for safety quickly and efficiently to ensure the well-being of residents. Additionally, Clover Living meets the essential needs of residents, who are primarily immigrants, with culturally appropriate food, services, activities, programs, and supports.

### **Edmonton-Castle Downs: Nicole Goehring, MLA**

#### **Home Care Assistance Edmonton**

Home Care Assistance Edmonton exemplifies being an age-friendly business. Serving more than 500 Edmontonians, Home Care Assistance Edmonton provided virtual programming throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including programs offered for individuals living with dementia, promoting health and quality of life. Additionally, Home Care

Assistance Edmonton has been supporting the Good Samaritan Southgate Centre, a congregate living facility that has been hit especially hard during the pandemic.

### **Edmonton-Meadows: Jasvir Deol, MLA**

#### **Shoppers Drug Mart #371 – Edmonton**

Shoppers Drug Mart #371 offered a variety of supports and services to seniors, including seniors-hour shopping during the first hour of the business day, providing a 20 per cent discount to seniors shopping in the store, and offering free delivery of groceries and medication to seniors across Edmonton. Shoppers Drug Mart #371 also provided large donations and discounted food hampers to an organization dedicated to the overall welfare of its members and society at large.

### **Edmonton-Mill Woods: Christina Gray, MLA**

#### **Servus Credit Union – Edmonton**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Servus Credit Union launched the COVID-19 Seniors Call Program, in which a dedicated group of Servus employees called senior members, who had time-sensitive banking coming, such as maturing products or terms that might normally prompt the member to come into a branch. In addition, special hours were set up for seniors, and staff delivered food, stamps, and cheques to seniors who were isolating in their homes. Fees were waived, monthly follow-up calls were provided, and branches made donations to local grocery delivery programs.

### **Lesser Slave Lake: Pat Rehn, MLA**

#### **Driftpile Cree Nation – Driftpile**

The Driftpile Cree Nation does extensive work in recognition and support for elders in its community. Elders participate in monthly meetings that include a discussion of topics, afternoon bingo, and prizes of food bags and supplies. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Driftpile Cree Nation declared a local state of emergency, during which regular wellness checks were initiated and food delivery assistance was provided.

## **Livingstone-Macleod: Roger Reid, MLA**

### **Madison Manor – Nanton**

Madison Manor offers a congregate living setting to approximately 14 residents. Madison Manor responded quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic through regular testing, cleaning, and contacting of the residents' families. Residents at the manor continued to enjoy home-cooked meals, fresh cinnamon buns, and celebrations. To keep residents connected with family, visitations continued virtually, as well as in-person, through a large window screen.

### **Sandstone Pharmacies – Nanton**

Sandstone Pharmacies in Nanton have proven to be a reliable and quality drugstore, especially for seniors, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. They are welcoming and greet individuals with friendly smiles. They regularly take the time to explain medications and answer questions. Additional health and safety measures were implemented during the pandemic for the safety of customers, including easy access to supplies through home delivery or curbside pickup.

## **Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin: Honourable Rick Wilson, MLA**

### **Ladybug Support Services – Wetaskiwin**

Ladybug Support Services is an all-inclusive service and delivery organization dedicated to helping seniors by providing rides to medical appointments, personal shopping, bill payments, banking, dictation services, and housekeeping. In addition, Ladybug Support Services goes above and beyond to support isolated seniors through companionship, hospital visits, and phone calls. These services allow seniors in Westaskiwin to maintain their independence as long as possible.