

Minister's Seniors Service Awards

2022 Nominees

Individual Award Nominees

Francis Aranha, Calgary

Honourable Jason Luan, MLA, Calgary-Foothills

Francis Aranha has devoted over 300 annual hours of service to assist seniors in his community. He has provided over 10 years of dedicated volunteer service and pastoral care to various senior and retirement residences. He has also arranged blood drives and created awareness in his community about the importance of blood donations. As well, Francis provides musical entertainment for seniors by playing his guitar and ensures that residents are entertained by organizing games throughout the year. He promotes intergenerational activities by engaging youth and seniors to write cards and participate in other activities.

His dedication to seniors shone throughout the pandemic when he ensured that seniors received essential services such as food from the Calgary Food Bank. He is a tireless worker and is very committed to making his community a better place.

Kari Cameron, Camrose

Ms. Jackie Lovely, MLA, Camrose

Kari Cameron is a champion for issues affecting older persons in Alberta through her roles as an Older Adult Support Worker and Elder Abuse Case Manager with Changing Ways in Camrose. For the last year, she has served over 47 older adults who have been affected by elder abuse, partner loss, or health issues. Kari works closely with Service Options for Seniors to provide wrap-around, long-term, and in-depth support to seniors in the community. She is upbeat, empathetic, respectful, professional, creative and an "enthusiastic champion of local seniors." Kari is an advocate for elder safety and community-based support services to support aging with dignity and choice.

Sherrisa Celis, Calgary

Honourable Premier Jason Kenney, MLA, Calgary-Lougheed

Sherrisa Celis goes the extra mile to create a collaborative community in southern Alberta by connecting different organizations to address the issues of the seniors. Sherrisa has worked for Calgary Catholic Immigration Society since 2006 and goes above and beyond in her role by dedicating her own time to making the lives of seniors as enjoyable and meaningful as possible. She is an instrumental leader that advocates for seniors' issues throughout Canada, such as elder abuse awareness and other issues of importance to seniors. Sherrisa is a co-chair of Calgary Elder Abuse Awareness Collective, a partnership of agencies working together to provide awareness and education.

She constantly creates opportunities and avenues for seniors to help sustain their everyday needs as well as satisfy their desires to be active and meaningful members of society. Sherrisa has arranged various workshops and outdoor activities for seniors, such as Multi-cultural Day, National Seniors Day, and social activities which support senior's social integration and engagement. Her outgoing and caring personality and exceptional leadership skills have helped many seniors connect and thrive. Over the years, she has created and maintained a wonderful atmosphere of learning, growth, collaboration, and support for immigrant seniors. Her volunteerism and creativity in serving seniors impresses and inspires everyone around her.

Kristen Chambers, Hinton

Mr. Martin Long, MLA, West Yellowhead

Kristen Chambers is the Chief Administrative Officer of The Evergreens Foundation, a not-for-profit housing management body based in Hinton, Alberta. She is a true visionary and leader who, in her 16-year career, brought meaningful changes to seniors housing in the region. She has been a tireless advocate for seniors in Hinton. Even though a rural community, she ensured that seniors within her region received the best

available support, by leveraging resources and industry contacts. Kristen envisions what seniors value in their lives and strives to have. The Evergreens Foundation provide the amenities required to achieve that vision, and more. Under Kristen's leadership, the Evergreens Foundation pioneered the mixed-market rent model to expand the supportive housing services to a larger senior population. Her administration policies ensure that the foundation hires the best staff, the best contractors, and receives the best products, so that seniors in her facilities get nothing less than what facilities have in major cities. Kristen is well respected within the region for her leadership, knowledge, and motivation to deliver successful services. Her advice is sought after by various provincial and municipal governments on matters related to seniors, housing, and other social services.

Manpreet Cheema, Claresholm

Mr. Roger Reid, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod

Manpreet Cheema is tireless in supporting seniors and the Claresholm community. He has donated food and supplies to senior lodges since 2019. Throughout the pandemic, he stepped up to ensure that seniors had access to essential supplies such as toothpaste, brushes, paper towels, and sanitizers. Manpreet continues to take an active role in providing help to seniors in Claresholm. He treats each senior as family by helping them pump gas and shoveling their sidewalks in the wintertime. He also ensures that seniors have an opportunity to connect and enjoy treats by providing ice cream, meals, and free coffee. He often goes the extra mile in supporting seniors. For instance, to raise public awareness on mental health, he raised \$2,300 towards improving seniors' mental health.

Dana Collicutt, Okotoks

Mr. R.J. Sigurdson, MLA, Highwood

Dana Collicutt's volunteer efforts, time commitment, and skills help make Okotoks vibrant and alive. She has been volunteering at The Heartland Retirement Residence since 2016. Dana is patient, kind, and consistently demonstrates compassion while volunteering. She assists seniors with multiple art projects, socials, and recreational programming. She offers painting classes to help even the most compromised seniors find success and be proud of their finished product. She always checks in with

residents by keeping up regular contact to check on seniors' wellbeing. Dana makes each senior she works with feel special and cared for. She is a great listener and a friend to all the staff and seniors. Her cheerful and caring personality makes the lives of the seniors she cares for better. She spreads happiness wherever she goes.

Jacquie Eales, City of Edmonton

Ms. Lori Sigurdson, MLA, Edmonton Riverview

Jacquie Eales is a committed advocate for seniors and a confident ambassador for the Greater Edmonton Foundation. In 2014, Jacquie led a research team from the University of Alberta in identifying primary and secondary factors that contribute to the quality of life of older persons living in congregate living facilities. She is passionate about identifying opportunities that have a meaningful and positive impact on seniors' lives. In 2016, Jacquie was appointed to the Foundation's Board of Directors and as Board Chair, she has been tireless in advocating for seniors. In 2019, she initiated a partnership between the Greater Edmonton Foundation and Age Friendly Edmonton and worked to bring Cycling Without Age to Edmonton, a program which bridges generations by giving older adults rides on three-wheel bikes piloted by trained volunteers. Jacquie is a passionate advocate who is committed to supporting the needs of older adults.

Linda F. Ensley, Sturgeon County

Ms. Marie Renaud, MLA, St. Albert

Linda F. Ensley has created innovative community partnerships to protect seniors from fraud and other abuse. She has created discussion groups for seniors to voice their experiences. As a founding member of the YEG Alliance, she initiated a collaboration with several organizations including the Edmonton Police Service, DynaLife, Bubar Communication, and the Edmonton Community Foundation to create simple multi-language anti-fraud resources for seniors.

During the pandemic, Linda quickly pivoted her organization to virtual mode, organized the distribution of 100 meals to low-income seniors, and organized a Seniors' Town Hall with Edmonton City Council and Mayoral Forum with the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council. Linda is known for her inclusive and imaginative efforts to serve seniors.

May Fidler, Town of Valleyview*Mr. Todd Loewen, MLA, Central Peace-Notley*

May Fidler worked for Heart River Housing from 1984 until her retirement in December 2021. Her dedicated efforts made the lives of the seniors she served happier, healthier and safer. She spent endless hours working on special projects to improve and enhance the daily lives of the seniors she cared so much about. May is a caring, compassionate, devoted, and fierce advocate for seniors in her community. May was instrumental in the development of the Accommodation Standards and Health and Safety Programs that are used provincially for the seniors housing industry.

She took time to sit and visit each senior to know them on a personal level so that each senior felt special and at home. She raised money through community donations to add many amenities to Valleyview Lodge, and organized events to connect seniors. She ensured that seniors were engaged and active and planned intergenerational activities such as games, stories, interviews and biography writing programs.

Wayne Hykaway, Calgary*Mr. Devinder Toor, MLA, Calgary-Falconridge*

Wayne Hykaway is a thoughtful and considerate individual who offers his time, without reservation, to support seniors care in Alberta. He volunteers with local, provincial, and national committees that inform seniors' care, notably dementia and Alzheimer's disease. He lends his knowledge, experience, and expertise through his work with Alzheimer's Disease International, his academic co-authoring and by sharing his personal journey. His story and advocacy prompted him to lead the establishment of a coffee group at his assisted living home and to advocating for and contributing to revised standards for long-term care services for those living with dementia

In addition, Wayne is a member of the Resident and Family Advocacy Committee, led by Alberta Health Services, which offers input and oversight to the development and implementation of seniors' care. He is a teacher to all the committee members in how to offer better care and understand seniors in Alberta. Wayne advocates for all seniors and makes a difference to the care of seniors provincially. His impact is widespread and meaningful.

Wendy King, Edmonton*Ms. Lori Sigurdson, MLA, Edmonton-Riverview*

Wendy King is a leader and advocate for seniors housing. She is the Chief Executive Officer of the Canterbury Foundation, which provides hospice space and dementia care. She has overseen the \$42 million expansion and renovation of the Foundation's support care building. She has forged collaborations with the University of Alberta to develop knowledge about memory care and neurodiversity. Wendy's leadership and passionate advocacy for seniors has resulted in the provision of safe and compassionate care and housing.

Claire Kuchel-Klassen, Vulcan*Mr. Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika*

Claire Kuchel-Klassen puts time, energy, and care into helping seniors that need help. She helps them access seniors' benefits or other government programs, completes numerous taxes for low-income seniors each year through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, and helps connect seniors to other service providers when they need help. She has been serving people her whole life as a nurse, a home support worker, and currently as the Seniors Support Manager at Vulcan and Region Family and Community Support Services. Claire does intake and assessment for home support to make sure that those seniors who want to stay in their homes can get the help they need. She sits with clients or connects with them over the phone and takes time to ensure their needs are met.

Claire serves the most vulnerable seniors through the Food Bank. It is endearing to see how much Claire remembers about clients, asking about their families, remembering special food requirements or preferences, and thinking of gifts at Christmastime that might be the perfect fit for a client. She packs love and care into each hamper. Claire's gentle manner makes seniors feel cared about, special and that their needs matter. She genuinely cares about seniors' wellbeing, health, and mental health.

Umesh Kumar, Edmonton*Mr. Rod Loyola, MLA, Edmonton-Ellerslie*

Umesh Kumar has volunteered his skills and services for seniors over the last ten years. As a trained yoga instructor, he has volunteered to teach yoga at the Millwoods Cultural Society of the Retired and Semi-

Retired. Umesh is a senior who gives back to his community by offering his services free to seniors. His commitment to serve his community is commendable and fulfills a need for social engagement and active living. Participants thank Umesh for going beyond teaching yoga. He promotes an understanding of the use of acupressure and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle. His students are very appreciative of his commitment, his generous spirit, and his contributions to the healthy aging of seniors

Allison Lemiski, Edmonton

Ms. Rachel Notley, MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona

Allison (Al) Lemiski has volunteered at the South-West Seniors Outreach Society since 1990. Al has served in many capacities such as President, Casino Coordinator, and Past President. He provides leadership and a helpful hand whenever and wherever needed. If there is a problem, Al is a leader that is sought out for solutions. Al is kind, inclusive, open to all suggestions, and has an amazingly positive outlook.

Al is the heart of the organization. Throughout the pandemic he provided leadership to make sure the organization would continue to serve the seniors of southwest Edmonton. He recruited new Board Members, found a new administrator, and ensured that financial reporting was up-to-date and accurate. His motivation spearheaded the drive to make sure the South-West Seniors Outreach Society remains a thriving seniors-focused organization.

Bernice Lynn, Olds

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

Bernice Lynn dedicated a decade of volunteer work to have Olds accredited as an Age Friendly Community, which was announced on June 10, 2022. Bernice is recognized in Olds for her role in organizing mental health workshops for seniors, advocating for elder abuse awareness, as well as focus groups on communication, respect and social isolation, and transportation. She is a writer on issues pertinent to seniors, authoring bi-weekly articles for the Olds community paper. She has also been an active committee member in diverse agencies such as the Community Lifestyles Committee of Olds. Bernice has also contributed her insights and experiences at meetings of Collaborative Online Resources and

Education (CORE) Alberta, the digital hub for Healthy Aging Alberta.

Blain MacLeod, Okotoks

Mr. R.J. Sigurdson, MLA, Highwood

Reverend Blain MacLeod has completed considerable and dedicated volunteer work in Calgary and area. As Associate Pastor at Calgary First Church of the Nazarene he has been mindful of the needs of seniors who were sick in hospital or bedridden at home. Since his retirement he has continued to spend hours every week phoning (during the pandemic) or visiting seniors in their homes or care facilities. He takes time to visit with seniors to ensure they are heard and that their spiritual needs are met.

Rosbina Nathoo, Calgary

Mr. Devinder Toor, MLA, Calgary-Falconridge

Rosbina Nathoo came to Canada in 1972 as a refugee from Uganda. She was amazed at the kindness with which she was welcomed, inspiring her to develop a deep interest in supporting seniors through volunteerism. This interest grew into a passion, and in 2017, Rosbina founded F.O.C.U.S. on Seniors with the mission to advocate for seniors to improve quality of life through social, educational, recreational, and cross-cultural activities. Rosbina has also been instrumental in implementing several supports for seniors in collaboration with the Calgary Seniors' Resource Society. This includes her involvement as a partner in the Igniting Neighbors for Kind Communities, delivering meals to seniors in Calgary during the pandemic, implementing cultural diversity programming, and supporting the Seniors Connecting Seniors program. Rosbina does all this as a volunteer community organizer.

Kristine Nutting, Edmonton

Mr. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton-City Centre

Kristine Nutting provides outstanding service to her community as a Community Animator with Sage Edmonton. She is a champion for seniors whose contributions enrich lives. Kristine is a passionate advocate for anti-ageism who wants everyone, regardless of age, to feel valued and empowered. Her motto is "See what is possible." She is kind, inclusive, and understanding. She is a tireless crusader against injustice, boredom, social isolation and elder abuse.

Kristine works with numerous community partners to organize events and to share stories and information. She has organized several well-attended presentations and outings to provide enrichment to seniors. During the pandemic, she pivoted to online programming, partnering with Seniors Without Walls, to reduce isolation. She organized a group of seniors called Amazing Elders in which she facilitates intergenerational activities, field trips and guest speakers. She has also produced short films which capture the life story of an indigenous elder.

Bukola Ojemakinde, Calgary

Honourable Sonya Savage, MLA, Calgary-North West

Bukola Ojemakinde founded Bridge to Oasis Foundation in November 2020, to meet the needs of African seniors in the Calgary area during the pandemic. The Foundation currently provides services to over 100 seniors from African communities. To address food insecurity during the pandemic, Bukola organized a grocery donation campaign for vulnerable seniors in Calgary, helping African seniors gain access to groceries.

Bukola and her team offer various free webinars and workshops for seniors regarding health information, seniors financial assistance programs, mental health, and more. Since the onset of the pandemic, she has collaborated with community leaders to provide support for seniors who are low-income or isolated. Recently, Bukola worked with Suncor Energy Foundation to have 100 refurbished laptops donated to seniors in Fort McMurray, Grande Prairie, Edmonton and in the Somali community.

Kathy Perley, Champion

Mr. Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika

Kathy Perley has a big heart and gives her time generously to the people in her community. Wherever she sees a need in her community Kathy is there to lend a hand. Whether it is to assist seniors with grocery shopping, delivering food, or checking in, her service positively affects everyone.

She ensures that seniors are entertained and engaged by volunteering at a drop-in center where she helps with crafts and provides coffee, donuts, and muffins in

the morning. She loves to interact with everyone in the community and help in any way she can.

Judy Shaw, Mundare

Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Saskatchewan-Vegreville

Judy Shaw is a pillar of her community and a long-term volunteer who has had a profound impact in her community. She has a strong spirit of volunteerism and can be found recruiting community members to volunteer their time, join groups, and serve on boards. Judy is a generous volunteer who dedicates much of her time and knowledge to helping seniors in the community through the Lamont Food Bank, Mundare Seniors Centre, Lamont County Rural Transportation Coalition, and various seniors' recreational events. Judy also devotes her own time to driving seniors to their appointments and picking up their prescriptions. In addition to her volunteer work, Judy finds the time to conduct wellness checks by calling senior community members if she has not seen or heard from them. In response to the pandemic, Judy took the initiative by picking up meals prepared via the Family and Community Supports Meals in Motion Program and delivering them to fellow seniors that were unable to complete the task. Judy's volunteerism, generosity and kindness makes her a pillar of her community and inspires everyone around her.

Nan Shybunka, Edmonton

Ms. Lori Sigurdson, MLA, Edmonton -Riverview

Nan Shybunka has been involved in Senior's fall prevention for many years. In 2014, Nan became a leader in the Finding Balance Program, an initiative of the Injury Prevention Centre that provides fall prevention resources and support for seniors, caregivers, and practitioners. Through her coordination and leadership, this program evolved into an evidence-based world class program that has been adopted in many Canadian jurisdictions. Nan has successfully partnered and collaborated with key stakeholders and service providers to keep fall prevention as a top priority for contributing to the healthy aging of seniors. Her contributions include the Finding Balanced newsletter, annual campaign and education events, year-round webinars, and resource development, which has moved the needle on fall prevention. In addition, Nan's ability to recognize the importance of engaging a diverse community in the planning and

implementation of supportive senior's fall prevention programs has been invaluable to the success of the fall prevention program in Alberta.

Tom Zariski, Drumheller

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA, Drumheller-Stettler

Tom Zariski is serving his fourth term as Councilor for the Town of Drumheller. During his early teaching career in 1975, Tom introduced the Seniors Christmas Dinner, in which students prepared an entire banquet for approximately 300 seniors. Since then, this event has become an annual event in the community. Over the years, Tom has been actively involved in his community by serving on and founding numerous community committees and organizations. While on the Emergency Management Committee, during the pandemic, Tom ensured the safety of the residents of the Hillview and Sunshine Lodges by securing funds for sneeze guards, recruiting door greeters, and acquiring PPE equipment.

Tom is passionate that seniors in his community have safe and affordable housing in the communities where they have lived and worked their whole lives. He was instrumental in securing funds for renovations and upgrades at both lodges as well as an additional 26 supportive living units.

Business Award Nominees

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

Audiology Innovations, Calgary

Mr. Joe Ceci, MLA, Calgary-Buffalo

Audiology Innovations supports seniors in the community who have hearing loss as well as organizations that support seniors. Their team provides educational presentations to many seniors' groups as part of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alberta's educational program. They provide sanitized donated hearing aids to seniors, partnered with Calgary Lions Club, the Bowmont Seniors Assistance Association, and carya. This program helps reduce financial barriers for Alberta seniors who require hearing assistance. Countless seniors in Calgary benefit from this recycling program. Audiology Innovations also provides "pop-up" clinics in senior lodges at no charge to seniors who would not be able to obtain hearing care services due to mobility, transportation, or financial barriers. The team has creatively developed programs to address the essential needs of seniors in the community for hearing health and safety, and goes beyond in their dedication to serving all Alberta seniors.

Evermore Yoga, Whitecourt

Mr. Martin Long, MLA, West Yellowhead

Evermore Yoga provides wonderful chair yoga classes to seniors. Each class is by donation and all proceeds go to charity. Evermore Yoga fulfills an essential need in the community by helping seniors remain active and to reduce social isolation by providing opportunities to connect with other people. The class benefits seniors' physical health and mental health and is suitable for all older adults no matter what their fitness levels or mobility restrictions.

Home Care Assistance Edmonton, Edmonton

Ms. Nicole Goehring, MLA, Edmonton-Castle Downs

Home Care Assistance Edmonton is setting a wonderful example as an age-friendly business in the community. To support local nonprofit organizations, Home Care Assistance Edmonton donated a marketing campaign to Westend Seniors Activity Centre. To support seniors during COVID-19 pandemic, they created a 25-week Virtual Mind-Fit series and offered

the classes to YEG Seniors Alliance, benefiting over 3,500 seniors in Edmonton. Additionally, Home Care Assistance Edmonton has been offering supports for individuals living with dementia, promoting health and quality of life. They initiated a Cognitive Therapeutics Method to boost seniors' mental acuity and slow the progression of dementia through cognitively stimulating activities. Home Care Assistance Edmonton and the staff are always eager to help by making a real difference in clients and families' lives, by providing personal care support, nutritious meals, physical exercises, companionship, and by donating money to low-income seniors who need help.

Madison Manor, Nanton

Mr. Roger Reid, MLA, Livingstone-Macleod

Madison Manor has provided outstanding services and support to the residents of Nanton. Madison Manor has been able to keep all residents safe from COVID-19. They created a home-like atmosphere for many seniors and provided the elderly with dementia and in need of cancer treatment with excellent care complemented with genuinely caring staff.

The staff takes time to listen and learn about each client's needs and preferences, so they can tailor their care programs to maximize the client's independence and dignity. Seniors can live the way they want with assistance when they need it.

Truly Home Care Services, Calgary

Honorable Jason Kenney, MLA, Calgary-Lougheed

Truly Home Care Services provide superb home care services to seniors and people with needs in the comfort of their homes. Trained professional staff provide personalized care to help clients live an independent lifestyle in clients' own homes.

Nonprofit Award Nominees

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

Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council, Medicine Hat

Mr. Drew Barnes, MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat

The Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council is a province-wide network of professionals representing communities across Alberta. The Council believes that every senior is a valued member of society and has a right to live free of abuse, that elder abuse is intolerable and unacceptable, and that increased awareness is the key to addressing elder abuse. The Council promotes the well-being and security of seniors through education and training about elder abuse to service providers and community members. The Council leads educational activities such as 'Taking Action Against Elder Abuse' (for service providers) and 'Neighbours, Friends and Family' (for community members to support elders experiencing abuse and to guide them to community supports). The Council also spreads awareness through platforms such as CORE Alberta, an online hub for senior-serving organizations and advocates, with educational talks and resources such as 'Staying Safe: A Resource for Older Adults Living in Alberta'.

Alberta Retired Teachers Association, Edmonton

Mr. Jon Carson, MLA, Edmonton-West Henday

The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association was founded in 1963 as a province-wide, non-profit organization with the goal of providing social connections for retired teachers. They are an effective advocate for retirees and offer a variety of services, including social connection, wellness resources, advocacy, and some of the best retiree health benefit plans in Canada. The Alberta Retired Teachers' Association has partnerships and connections with many organizations to support an engaged lifestyle. Their largest impact on seniors in Alberta is through Retiree Health Benefit Plans. As a non-profit organization, the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association takes all revenues generated by the plan and uses them to keep costs low and make further plan innovations based on the ever-changing health needs of seniors. Recently, they were able to cut out many of the plans' administration costs by beginning to self-

administer the Retiree Benefit Plan. This gave the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association more control over the benefit plans, leading to greater customization options and further lowering the operating costs, meaning more money was able to go back into the plans. With the organization's health coverage, seniors do not have to worry about how they will be able to pay for their health care costs, and they are free to instead devote their energy to enjoying retirement.

Care for the Elderly - Ismaili Seniors, Edmonton

Ms. Christina Gray, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Woods

The Ismaili-Muslim community in Edmonton consists of a diverse group of people across a variety of ethnicities and age groups. For many years, Care for the Elderly has ensured that seniors feel a sense of belonging and community and contribute in a way that is meaningful to them. To encourage this, volunteers took the initiative to organize the Ismaili Seniors Centre. The centre offers programs and services to seniors, including bus transportation for evening prayers, visiting long-term care or retirement facilities. To help seniors connect during the pandemic, the team established a variety of enriching and entertaining virtual activities. This virtual program provides a variety of educational and entertaining topics, such as seniors' benefits, financial workshops, music, and health information, all of which improve senior's quality of life. Virtual events have engaged participants from across and outside of Canada. Many have described it as a bright spot throughout the pandemic, making them feel connected and remembered during such a challenging time.

Changing Ways, Camrose

Ms. Jackie Lovely, MLA, Camrose

Changing Ways has offered supports for older adults since September 2021. It is embedded within the Service Options for Seniors program and so far, has helped over 47 older adults with community resources, elder abuse supports, and long term supports.

Edmonton Meals on Wheels, Edmonton

Mr. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton-City Centre

Edmonton Meals on Wheels is a not-for-profit organization that relies on volunteers to provide nutritious meals and related programs, which promote client health, well-being, and independence. They have

been serving Edmonton and the surrounding community for over half a century. The pandemic created an urgent need to provide food security, with access to nutritious food. Meals on Wheels rose to the challenge and fulfilled the needs of seniors and disabled citizens, from sourcing ingredients, to preparing the food, to delivering right to people's doorsteps. Their service goes beyond charitable work; Meals on Wheels delivers compassion each day. The team fosters meaningful relationships, eradicates food scarcity, and cultivates hope. In 2021, Meals on Wheels drove 156,745 km to deliver services to seniors, completed 1,811 grocery shops, and 3,550 evening deliveries. The organization and volunteers have made lasting impacts in their community.

Sage Seniors Association, Edmonton

Mr. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton-City Centre

Sage Seniors Association is a non-profit organization that has provided programs and services for seniors in the Edmonton area since 1970. The organization operates Sage Seniors' Safe House, an all-gender domestic violence shelter offering services to seniors escaping violence and abuse. The shelter offers accommodation for seniors in need of refuge, providing the security, and safety needed for seniors to embark on the road of recovery. Qualified social work staff provide holistic case management, peer support, professional and practical assistance, and connections to community resources that help seniors deal with all areas of their lives that have been impacted by abuse. Sage Seniors Association also has a partnership with Alberta SPCA to ensure pets have a safe place to stay while their owner is recovering in shelter. They strive to help seniors heal and regain confidence in themselves and in all aspects of life, delivering a level of care and attention that allows seniors to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Service Options for Seniors (SOS), Camrose

Ms. Jackie Lovely, MLA, Camrose

For 18 years the SOS Program has been serving seniors in Camrose and County of Camrose. The SOS Program connects seniors to essential programs and service. They empower seniors with information and supports to stay connected to their community and live independently. Some program examples include, assisting seniors to book online appointments, addressing food insecurity by working with the local

food bank to deliver food hampers, assisting seniors with hearing impairments to make phone calls, and delivering transit tokens to seniors. Throughout the pandemic, the program has been able to quickly incorporate health and safety changes while pivoting to take many required services directly to seniors' doorsteps. This has kept seniors safe and ensured the continued delivery of programs. The organization also provides referrals to partner stakeholders throughout the community. This enables the whole community to support seniors to reduce social isolation and ensure food and financial security. To address elder abuse as a growing concern in the community, the SOS program immediately hired an elder abuse case specialist to provide services to local seniors and protect vulnerable community members.

The Canterbury Foundation, Edmonton

Ms. Lori Sigurdson, MLA, Edmonton-Riverview

The Canterbury Foundation has given the Promise of Home to Edmonton seniors since 1974. The organization offers three retirement living options, a variety of healthcare services, recreational programs, and a wide range of amenities. All these things contribute to providing a home where Edmonton seniors can experience a high quality of life, feel comfortable, safe, and part of a vibrant community. The staff at Canterbury are passionate about their work, the residents they serve, and enhancing the quality of life for the seniors in their community. Canterbury Foundation worked closely with the University of Alberta's research team to design programs that provide seniors with the greatest support, such as neurodiversity and individualized memory support.

The Evergreens Foundation, Hinton

Mr. Martin Long, MLA, West Yellowhead

The Evergreens Foundation is a nonprofit housing management body that supports independent housing for seniors living in rural Alberta communities. They establish a true ageing-in-place facility that not only provides shelter but that goes above and beyond with services that improve the quality of life of seniors. While most rural communities have options for low-income seniors housing, the large segment of seniors who do not, fall into this category and get neglected. The innovative mixed-market rent model introduced by The Evergreens Foundation has helped expand these services to all seniors in these communities. The

Evergreens Foundation also provides other supportive essential services such as Meals-on-Wheels, managing transit services and other social and philanthropic outreach within the region. The Evergreens Foundation started working on an elder's lodge to ensure the indigenous community receives necessary services, such as potable water, natural gas, and fiber optic internet. The organization exhausts all resources to ensure that seniors in rural communities receive the care they need and where they feel most comfortable.

The Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton

Mr. Marlin Schmidt, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar

The Good Samaritan Society provides long-term and complex care, supportive and assisted living, and other specialized health care programs in innovative and caring environments across Alberta. The Society serves seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and individuals with a chronic illness. Over the past year, the organization has made serving Indigenous communities a strategic priority.

The Good Samaritan Society is fully committed to supporting vulnerable Albertans and has exemplified outstanding service regarding Seniors' Indigenous Health and Wellness. The organization is uniquely positioned to provide leadership and supports for the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous patients and families and is passionate about finding new opportunities to realize its mission, vision and values. As such, the organization is evolving their mandate to enhance their focus on mental health and Indigenous health issues and services.

Presently, the organization serves over 5,000 residents and individuals in the community. The Good Samaritan Society strives to establish continuous and meaningful reciprocal partnerships with Indigenous organizations, senior residents/clients, and families. The Good Samaritan Society created cultural competency training to develop and implement a diversity strategy with a focus on Indigenous health. Recently, they launched several initiatives that foster diversity and inclusion among the residents of 29 care homes and 28 group homes.

The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women, Edmonton

Ms. Christina Gray, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Woods

The Shaama Centre offers activities and services for immigrant seniors, women, and families. Services include English classes, computer use, fitness, and painting. Programs such as 'Chai and Chat' provide opportunities for social interaction. The Centre also supports people coping with grief, domestic violence, isolation, and other life challenges. During the pandemic, the Shaama Centre provided care packages and monthly grocery hampers, as well as 2,548 cooked meals to isolated seniors and women. The craft team sewed and distributed 300 masks. Tax filing support was provided to low-income families. To increase awareness about domestic violence, the Shaama Centre drama club wrote and performed (online) Hindi-language skits about abuse and neglect of women and seniors.

Town of Irricana Library, Irricana

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

The Town of Irricana Library has created a virtual adult and senior book club that provides its members with a venue for social interaction and information sharing to foster connections and reduce social isolation. Although the Club was started in 2016, the library was able to quickly pivot to an online format in response to the pandemic to continuously provide outstanding service to its members. The social benefit of the Book Club includes connections for seniors, relationship building, and information on community programs.

Alice Modin Award Nominees

An individual Albertan or couple who is 65 years or older and has been volunteering in their community for 20 or more years; actively promotes volunteerism; and/or has had a provincial impact through their volunteer efforts.

Sherrisa Cellis, Calgary

Honorable Premier Jason Kenney, MLA, Calgary-Lougheed

Sherrisa Celis goes the extra mile to create a collaborative community in southern Alberta by connecting different organizations to address the issues of the seniors. Sherrisa has worked for Calgary Catholic Immigration Society since 2006 and goes above and beyond in her role by dedicating her own time to making the lives of seniors as enjoyable and meaningful as possible. She is an instrumental leader that advocates for seniors' issues throughout Canada, such as elder abuse awareness and other issues of importance to seniors. Sherrisa is a co-chair of Calgary Elder Abuse Awareness Collective, a partnership of agencies working together to provide awareness and education.

She constantly creates opportunities and avenues for seniors to help sustain their everyday needs as well as satisfy their desires to be active and meaningful members of society. Sherrisa has arranged various workshops and outdoor activities for seniors, such as Multi-cultural Day, National Seniors Day, and social activities which support senior's social integration and engagement. Her outgoing and caring personality and exceptional leadership skills have helped many seniors connect and thrive. Over the years, she has created and maintained a wonderful atmosphere of learning, growth, collaboration, and support for immigrant seniors. Her volunteerism and creativity in serving seniors impresses and inspires everyone around her.

Allison Lemiski, Edmonton

Ms. Rachel Notley, MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona

Allison (Al) Lemiski has volunteered at the South-West Seniors Outreach Society since 1990. Al has served in many capacities such as President, Casino Coordinator, and Past President. He provides leadership and a helpful hand whenever and wherever needed. If there is a problem, Al is a leader that is sought out for solutions. Al is kind, inclusive, open to all suggestions, and has an amazingly positive outlook.

Al is the heart of the organization. Throughout the pandemic he provided leadership to make sure the organization would continue to serve the seniors of southwest Edmonton. He recruited new Board Members, found a new administrator, and ensured that financial reporting was up-to-date and accurate. His motivation spearheaded the drive to make sure the South-West Seniors Outreach Society remains a thriving seniors-focused organization.

Judy Shaw, Mundare

Honourable Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA, Saskatchewan-Vegreville

Judy Shaw is a pillar of her community and a long-term volunteer who has had a profound impact in her community. She has a strong spirit of volunteerism and can be found recruiting community members to volunteer their time, join groups, and serve on boards. Judy is a generous volunteer who dedicates much of her time and knowledge to helping seniors in the community through the Lamont Food Bank, Mundare Seniors Centre, Lamont County Rural Transportation Coalition, and various seniors' recreational events. Judy also devotes her own time to driving seniors to their appointments and picking up their prescriptions. In addition to her volunteer work, Judy finds the time to conduct wellness checks by calling senior community members if she has not seen or heard from them. In response to the pandemic, Judy took the initiative by picking up meals prepared via the Family and Community Supports Meals in Motion Program and delivering them to fellow seniors that were unable to complete the task. Judy's volunteerism, generosity and kindness makes her a pillar of her community and inspires everyone around her.

Tom Zariski, Drumheller

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA, Drumheller-Stettler

Tom Zariski is serving his fourth term as Councilor for the Town of Drumheller. During his early teaching career in 1975, Tom introduced the Seniors Christmas Dinner, in which students prepared an entire banquet for approximately 300 seniors. Since then, this event has become an annual event in the community. Over the years, Tom has been actively involved in his community by serving on and founding numerous community committees and organizations. While on the Emergency Management Committee, during the

pandemic, Tom ensured the safety of the residents of the Hillview and Sunshine Lodges by securing funds for sneeze guards, recruiting door greeters, and acquiring PPE equipment.

Tom is passionate that seniors in his community have safe and affordable housing in the communities where they have lived and worked their whole lives. He was instrumental in securing funds for renovations and upgrades at both lodges as well as an additional 26 supportive living units.

Special Service Award Nominees

An Alberta individual, business, group, or non-profit organization that strives to bring together organizations and service providers to build collaborative networks to improve services to seniors.

Sherrisa Celis, Calgary

Honorable Premier Jason Kenney, MLA, Calgary-Lougheed

Sherrisa Celis goes the extra mile to create a collaborative community in southern Alberta by connecting different organizations together to address the issues of the seniors. Sherrisa has worked for Calgary Catholic Immigration Society since 2006 and goes above and beyond in her role by dedicating her own time to making the lives of seniors as enjoyable and meaningful as possible. She is an instrumental leader in advocating for seniors' issues throughout Canada, such as elder abuse awareness and other issues of importance to seniors. Sherrisa is a co-chair of Calgary Elder Abuse Awareness Collective, a partnership of agencies working together to provide awareness and education.

She is constantly creating opportunities and avenues for seniors that help sustain their everyday needs as well as satisfy their desires to be active members of society with meaning and purpose. Sherrisa has arranged various workshops and outdoor activities for seniors, such as Multi-cultural Day, National Seniors Day, and social activities which support senior's social integration and engagement. Her outgoing and caring personality and exceptional leadership skills have helped many seniors to connect and thrive. She has created and maintained a wonderful atmosphere of learning, growth, collaboration, and support for immigrant seniors over years. Her volunteerism and creativity in serving seniors impressed and inspired everyone around her.

Kristine Nutting, Edmonton

Mr. David Shepherd, MLA, Edmonton City Centre

Kristine Nutting provides outstanding service to her community as a Community Animator with Sage Edmonton. She is a champion for seniors whose contributions enrich lives. Kristine is a passionate advocate for anti-ageism who wants everyone, regardless of age, to feel valued and empowered. Her motto is "See what is possible." She is kind, inclusive, and understanding. She is a tireless crusader against injustice, boredom, social isolation and elder abuse.

Kristine works with numerous community partners to organize events and to share stories and information. She has organized several well-attended presentations and outings to provide enrichment to seniors. During the pandemic, she pivoted to online programming, partnering with Seniors Without Walls, to reduce isolation. She organized a group of seniors called Amazing Elders in which she facilitates intergenerational activities, field trips and guest speakers. She has also produced short films which capture the life story of an indigenous elder.

The Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton

Mr. Marlin Schmidt, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar

The Good Samaritan Society provides long-term and complex care, supportive and assisted living, and other specialized health care programs in innovative and caring environments across Alberta. The Society serves seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and individuals with a chronic illness. Over the past year, the organization has made serving Indigenous communities a strategic priority.

The Good Samaritan Society is fully committed to supporting vulnerable Albertans and has exemplified outstanding service regarding Seniors' Indigenous Health and Wellness. The organization is uniquely positioned to provide leadership and supports for the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being of Indigenous patients and families and is passionate about finding new opportunities to realize its mission, vision and values. As such, the organization is evolving their mandate to enhance their focus on mental health and Indigenous health issues and services.

Presently, the organization serves over 5,000 residents and individuals in the community. The Good Samaritan Society strives to establish continuous and meaningful reciprocal partnerships with Indigenous organizations, senior residents/clients, and families. The Good Samaritan Society created cultural competency training to develop and implement a diversity strategy with a focus on Indigenous health. Recently, they launched several initiatives that foster diversity and inclusion among the residents of 29 care homes and 28 group homes.