Minister’s Seniors Service Awards

2026 Nominees

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Person Nominations

Individual, Alice Modin, Special Service Awards
Listed alphabetically by last name.

Mary Anderson, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin Awards
Janet Eremenko, MLA for Calgary-Currie

Mary Anderson has made a significant and sustained contribution to seniors in Calgary through her decades of volunteer leadership with the Good Companions 50 Plus Club, a community-based organization serving more than 280 older adults. As President, she provides strategic leadership while remaining actively involved in the day-to-day life of the Club, regularly attending programs, welcoming new members, and fostering a strong sense of belonging among participants. Beyond her governance role, Mary leads a walking group that encourages regular physical activity and social interaction. As well, she participates in the Club's music program and community events, creating opportunities for friendship, participation, and community involvement. Her consistent presence makes her a trusted source of support for members and helps create a welcoming environment where older adults can build meaningful relationships and remain active in their community. Mary also promotes volunteerism by encouraging others to contribute their time and talents in support of fellow seniors. Now in her 90s, she continues to serve with remarkable dedication and energy. Through her leadership, the Good Companions 50 Plus Club has remained an important community hub that helps reduce social isolation and supports older adults in maintaining active and connected lives. Her lifelong commitment to service serves as an inspiring example of community leadership and volunteerism.

Abby Araji, Chestermere

Nominated for: Individual Award
Chantelle De Jonge, MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore

Abby Araji's work as an Area Manager has made a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors living in Onward Homes communities across Calgary. She has become known for her thoughtful, resident-focused approach, as well as her commitment to ensuring seniors feel heard, respected, and supported. She takes the time to listen to residents' concerns, respond to their needs, and helps create a welcoming environment where older adults feel valued and connected. Recognizing that many seniors were living alone, Abby introduced a wellness check to support residents' safety and well-being, consequently building strong and trusting relationships within the communities. She also encouraged opportunities for social connection through resident engagement and community activities, helping to foster a stronger sense of belonging and reduce social isolation. Through these efforts, Abby helped create safer, more connected communities for seniors while providing reassurance to residents and their families. Her dedication, initiative, and genuine care for others have had a positive impact on the daily lives of many older adults and made her a valued advocate for seniors in Calgary.

David Atchison, Didsbury

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

David Atchison is an enthusiastic aquatic fitness instructor whose dedication and engaging leadership have contributed to the popularity and success of the local aquafit program, and its positive impact on the seniors of

Didsbury and surrounding communities. With an authentic and approachable wit, he uses humour as a tool to foster connection, helping others feel comfortable, safe, and welcome. His class attendance has increased so significantly, the town now organizes a bus that brings residents of a local assisted living complex to his class three times a week. Through inclusive practices, the occasional inflatable costume, and consistent engagement, David has created an environment that reduces barriers to participation, supports seniors' regular engagement in physical activity, and fosters strong social connections among participants. The program has led to the development of informal peer networks, including regular social gatherings, and an online community, contributing to improved social inclusion and overall well-being for seniors in the community.

Josh Bellingham, Three Hills

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards
Honourable Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Josh Bellingham is the Digital Services Manager at Kneehill Adult Learning Society, a nonprofit Community Adult Learning Program serving the rural communities within Kneehill County. He is widely recognized for his kindness, patience, and his ability to translate complex technological concepts into clear, accessible lessons for seniors, while consistently respecting the dignity of every individual, regardless of ability or pace of progress. Josh has designed and delivered practical educational sessions that enable seniors to access the internet, navigate essential online services, and stay connected with family and friends. A cornerstone program he designed is "Is it Legit? Call before you click!", designed to protect seniors from online scams and fraud through awareness and by providing a safe place to ask questions. He ensures equitable access by offering in-home support, office hours, virtual assistance, and one-to-one instruction, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to supporting seniors in an increasingly digital world. A trusted and welcome presence in the community, Josh's work has strengthened the effectiveness of the organizations he supports and has profoundly improved the confidence, independence, and wellbeing of seniors throughout Kneehill County. His dedication exemplifies outstanding service and has made a lasting difference in the lives of those he serves.

Stella Bergeron, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo

Stella Bergeron has demonstrated dedication and leadership to seniors in Calgary since 2019 when she stepped forward as Director of Villa Jeans Toupin. As no candidates were available, Stella took the initiative to oversee residents' well-being and lead major improvements to safety, cleanliness, and infrastructure. She ensures she is accessible and responsive to residents and has established an on-site presence, providing support with a level of compassion, dedication, and personal commitment that helps residents feel truly valued and cared for. Stella also serves as Vice-President of the Calgary Club de l'Amitié and Fédération des aînés franco-albertains, organizing social activities and advocating for Francophone seniors across Alberta communities.

Donald Bodinsky, Sturgeon County

Nominated for: Alice Modin Award
Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert

Donald Bodinsky has demonstrated dedication to volunteer service throughout Alberta for over 53 years, reflecting a deep sense of responsibility, readiness to take initiative, and commitment to positive change. His

passion for cars has shaped his volunteer roles, including founding clubs for retired drag racers, contributing to provincial oil recycling efforts, and serving as secretary for the Automotive Industries Association of Southern Alberta. Balancing family life with community service, he also participated in Parent Advisory Council committees. Recognizing the importance of belonging in later life, he established the Old Racers Club, creating a trusted space where retired race car enthusiasts can connect, share interests, and maintain strong social ties.

His ongoing involvement with organizations such as the Morinville Mainstreet Cruisers Car Club, Morinville Curling Club, and the Sturgeon Region Senior Citizen Advisory Network ensures that seniors have opportunities to remain engaged, contribute their perspectives, and stay connected to community life. Donald also played a key role in establishing a Men's Shed in Sturgeon County, providing an accessible environment for older men to socialize, collaborate, and reduce isolation. Through these efforts, he has strengthened informal support networks, increased participation, and supported seniors in maintaining purpose and wellbeing. Donald's ongoing commitment reflects a lifetime of service dedicated to enhancing wellbeing and connection within his community.

Teofila Buluran, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin, Special Service Awards

Honourable Tanya Fir, MLA for Calgary-Peigan

Teofila Buluran is a long-standing community leader who has dedicated over four decades to supporting seniors across Alberta through volunteerism and nonprofit leadership. Since arriving in Canada in 1985, she has consistently provided hands-on support, assisting seniors with daily needs, appointments, and emotional care. As President of the Canadian Filipino Caregiver Association, she has played a key role in organizing programs and services that help seniors access transportation, navigate government benefits such as CPP and Old Age Security, and remain connected to cultural and community networks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she led efforts to deliver food, groceries, and care packages across Alberta while maintaining regular contact with isolated seniors. She has also supported hospitalized seniors and those recovering at home through ongoing visits and care. Her work has reduced isolation, improved access to essential services, and strengthened community connections. Teofila's decades of service and compassionate leadership have made a lasting and meaningful impact on seniors' lives.

Shirley Caputo, Hinton

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin Awards

Honourable Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

Shirley Caputo, through more than 35 years of volunteer service and leadership, has made a significant and lasting contribution to the Hinton community. She has dedicated her time to strengthening local organizations, supporting community initiatives, and helping residents access the services and opportunities they need. Her volunteer leadership includes 23 years as a Trustee with Grande Yellowhead Public School Division, including three years as Vice Chair, and 15 years with the Hinton Adult Learning Society, including 12 years as Chair. During her time with HALS, the organization grew significantly, expanding programs and services to support residents across three communities. She has also served on the Hinton Grant Funding Advisory Board, Community Engagement and Advisory Committee, Council Remuneration Committee, and the Hinton Municipal Library Board.

For 26 years, Shirley has volunteered with the Hinton Food Bank, contributing thousands of hours to support seniors and other residents with food distribution, holiday hamper and Christmas meal delivery programs while also working to secure essential hygiene and personal care items for Food Bank clients. She has also provided tax filing support and fraud prevention education in support of seniors and was responsible for launching a community shredding initiative to help prevent identity theft. Through decades of hands-on volunteerism, leadership, and community service, she has strengthened support for seniors while making a lasting difference throughout the Hinton area.

Ansh Chavda, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards
Jasvir Deol, MLA for Edmonton-Meadows

Ansh is a highly engaged service-oriented volunteer for two facilities of Covenant Health. Beginning as a visitor screener at the Misericordia Community Hospital in 2020, he quickly became aware of the profound impact social isolation can have on seniors in care. Inspired by this experience, he later founded Project Care, an initiative designed to connect seniors living in care facilities with volunteers to foster meaningful social connections across generations. Ansh led the recruitment efforts and orientation of a roster of students to participate in the project. He led fundraising events and established a board of eighteen executive members overseeing all areas of the organization. Since its inception, Ansh has led Project Care through initiatives within and outside of Covenant Health facilities that have decreased residents' social isolation, increased participation in activities, and fostered a strong sense of identity and emotional well-being. Staff and families of the residents observed noticeable positive changes following events, including a general heightened sense of mood and atmosphere in the facility. Ansh's empathy, vision, and dedication have enriched the quality of life for many older adults in his community and has inspired other young volunteers to engage meaningfully with seniors. His work demonstrates how thoughtful, compassionate service can bridge generations and create moments of dignity, joy, and belonging for seniors.

Ron Chopek, Provost

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler

Ron Chopek is a dedicated volunteer in Provost whose leadership was instrumental in securing an accessible vehicle to help local seniors attend medical appointments. Recognizing a critical community need, he took the initiative to develop and champion a comprehensive proposal for local decision-makers. As a result, seniors now have greater access to healthcare services, reducing transportation barriers and improving their overall well-being and quality of life.

Dr. Sunil Datar, Spruce Grove

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Searle Turton, MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain

Dr. Sunil Datar is an experienced physician who has been serving the Spruce Grove and Stony Plain communities for more than 30 years. His clinical skills, thoughtful approach to communication, and life-long dedication to the care and wellbeing of Albertans, has helped make Dr. Datar a respected member of the community. He works to dismantle barriers between clinical staff and families to ensure the families are not

merely informed but are empowered partners in decision-making processes. Dr. Datar demonstrates a strong commitment to innovative, patient-centered care by extending service beyond traditional clinical settings, including home visits and coordinated care with Home Care teams. Drawing on his oncology background, he supports early screening, diagnosis, and patient education, helping patients and families make informed decisions with greater confidence. As Board Chair of the Westview Primary Care Network, and an active care provider in multiple continuing care facilities, he brings valuable frontline insights to inform system planning and decision making. Dr. Datar's leadership and clinical practice demonstrate a sustained and meaningful impact on the quality, accessibility, and coordination for seniors in his community.

Kimberly Dizak, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards

Brooks Arcand-Paul, MLA for Edmonton-West Henday

Kim is a leader and innovator dedicated to building inclusive, connected, and age-friendly communities across Alberta. Since beginning her career as a Recreation Therapist in 2009, she has consistently developed community-driven and intergenerational programs that reduce social isolation and foster a strong sense of belonging among seniors. Her impact extends across Alberta through mentorship, professional leadership, and service with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association, where she champions excellence in senior care. Kim's creativity and innovation are evident in initiatives such as Kits with Kim, immersive reminiscing programs that support seniors living with dementia, and the Canadian Recreational Services Directory, which improves access to quality recreation services, particularly in rural communities. Kim's warm, inclusive approach inspires participation, volunteerism, and lasting connections, leaving a meaningful and enduring impact on seniors, families, and communities across Alberta.

Tammy Funk, Westlock

Nominated For: Individual Award

Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock

Tammy is a community member and volunteer caregiver for seniors in Westlock. She actively reaches out to isolated seniors who lack family or social support, ensuring they feel valued, connected, and cared for. She provides companionship and purpose by involving them in everyday activities, organizing special events, and spending meaningful time with them. Acting as a social convener, Tammy helps isolated and lonely seniors come out of their shell and connect with others in their respective communities or care homes, significantly improving their quality of life and mental health. She demonstrates a strong commitment to the individuals she supports through her day-to-day actions and ongoing care. Her dedication extends beyond the end of life, as she provides comfort to grieving families by attending funerals and offering support during difficult times. Her efforts and abundance of care are an integral part of the Westlock seniors community.

Janet Gobert, Bonnyville

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards

Scott Cyr, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul

Janet Gobert is a dedicated community leader and Chief Executive Director of the Bonnyville Friendship Centre, where she has led the development of inclusive, accessible programs that support seniors across the Lakeland region. Her work focuses on ensuring seniors of all backgrounds—Indigenous, non-Indigenous, Métis, newcomer, rural, and 2SLGBTQ+—feel welcomed, respected, and connected to their community. Under her leadership, the Centre has become a vital hub offering a wide range of services tailored to seniors' needs. This includes a community kitchen that provides free, nutritious meals and skill-building cooking programs, alongside on-site mental health and crisis support to help individuals meet both immediate and longer-term needs.

She has expanded outreach into care facilities and seniors housing, ensuring those with mobility or health challenges remain engaged. Janet has also advanced cultural revitalization initiatives, including Cree and Dene language programs for Elders, and supported intergenerational connections through youth involvement and community activities. Her efforts have reduced isolation, improved access to essential supports, and strengthened community belonging for hundreds of seniors. Janet Gobert's leadership has created lasting, inclusive systems that enhance seniors' safety, dignity, and overall quality of life.

Karnik Gupta, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Gurinder Brar, MLA for Calgary-North East

Karnik Gupta is an emerging leader and volunteer who has made an impact on seniors through both direct service and innovative solutions. Over the past several years, he has contributed more than 2,000 hours of volunteer work, including providing regular wellness calls through the Canadian Red Cross to reduce isolation, and supporting seniors and their families in complex healthcare environments as a volunteer with Alberta Health Services. His work ensures seniors feel supported, respected, and guided during challenging and often overwhelming situations. Recognizing systemic and financial barriers to accessing medical equipment, Karnik founded MediDonate Life Improvement Initiative, a technology-driven platform designed to connect individuals with donated medical supplies. Through strong partnerships with local medical suppliers and active community engagement, he has facilitated over $25,000 worth of equipment donations, directly improving access and quality of life for seniors. He has also mobilized university students and community members to expand awareness and participation. His efforts have reduced barriers, strengthened community support systems, and improved seniors' ability to access essential care.

Connie Huelsmann, Bowden

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Devin Dreeshen, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Connie Huelsmann is a valued Bowden area community member who has dedicated her time and efforts for many years advocating for seniors housing and care improvements. Serving as Board Chair of Parkland Foundation, Connie's leadership has helped guide the development and maintenance of affordable seniors' housing in Bowden, Delburne, Elnora, Innisfail, and Penhold, as well as family housing in Bowden. She supported a partnership with The Bethany Group to enhance the management of seniors' housing and services, improved operational efficiency, strengthened advocacy for rural lodge funding, and helped ensure sustainable housing

solutions for seniors in Central Alberta. She has also been instrumental in engaging with government and community partners to explore opportunities for service expansion and improvements to senior living facilities. Connie's passion and commitment to improving the wellbeing of seniors in her area is further demonstrated by her pet visitation initiative, where she brings her dog into seniors' homes to provide residents with comfort and companionship. These visits are a highlight for many residents and provide an overall boost to quality of life. Connie's contributions have made a lasting difference in the lives of seniors by reducing barriers and providing opportunities for aging with dignity, comfort, and support.

Bobie Humble, St. Isidore

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River

Bobie Humble is regarded for her longstanding contributions to the St. Isidore community. She works to break down common barriers to healthy aging by offering support such as transportation to medical appointments, assistance with essential needs, care during times of illness, and ensuring pets are looked after. Her practical hands-on approach has helped strengthen an overall sense of community and improved the quality of life for local seniors, allowing for independence and aging well in place. In addition to her personal outreach, Bobie serves as President of the McKinney Hall Association, where she supported the hall's revitalization. Under her leadership, the hall has become a vibrant hub for community connection. Her dedication to the renovation has had a lasting impact on local seniors, creating a welcoming, accessible space where older adults and residents of all ages can gather, participate in activities, and access support.

Gerald Ingeveld, Sundre

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards

Honorable Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House

Gerald Ingeveld is a long-serving community leader whose decades of public service, governance, and volunteerism have made a meaningful difference for seniors in rural Alberta. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring seniors are supported, respected, and able to remain connected within their communities. As Chair of the Sundre Hospital Futures Committee since 2011, he has been an advocate for equitable access to local healthcare, recognizing the importance of maintaining services close to home for seniors. He has also contributed to numerous boards and committees, bringing thoughtful leadership and a strong focus on long-term community well-being. Beyond his formal roles, Gerald remains actively involved in local outreach through his faith community, organizing events and providing regular services in seniors' housing facilities. Gerald Ingeveld's decades of leadership and service have strengthened access to essential services, increased community connection, and supported the overall well-being of seniors in the region.

Benjamin Isidro, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Parmeet Singh Boparai, MLA for Calgary-Falconridge

Benjamin Isidro is a dedicated community leader who has contributed decades of service to supporting seniors through cultural initiatives and community engagement in Calgary by fostering inclusion, connection, and cultural identity among older adults. For 16 years, he served as President of the Golden Generation Association, where

he led programs that encourage seniors to remain active, engaged, and connected. He has also held leadership roles with the Canadian Filipino Caregiver Association, Friends of Saint Mark Foundation, and the Filipino Folklore Club of Calgary, supporting both community programming and cultural preservation. His efforts have strengthened community bonds, supported seniors' well-being, and created opportunities for meaningful engagement. Benjamin Isidro's long-standing leadership and commitment have made a lasting and positive impact on seniors in his community.

Sheena Jaffer, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual Award

Nicole Goehring, MLA for Edmonton-Castle Downs

Sheena Jaffer has made sustained and meaningful contributions to improving the lives of seniors through her volunteer leadership, advocacy, and system-level influence across Alberta. Motivated by lived experience as a caregiver, she has focused her efforts on closing gaps between seniors' needs and the services and environments that support them, with particular emphasis on AgeTech, Assistive Technology, proactive planning and home retrofitting. During her time as a Strategic Advisor and Steward with the Age Friendly Edmonton Alliance, Sheena has advanced community-wide awareness on accessibility, universal design, and technology-enabled independence, and helped organizations adopt evidence-informed approaches that support safety, dignity, and autonomy for older adults. She has increased awareness and understanding of assistive and smart technologies through public education, media contributions, and engagement with community leaders to showcase how evolving technologies can enhance mobility, safety, and quality of life for older adults. As Board Director with GEF Seniors Housing, Sheena continues to guide ethical and forward-looking exploration of smart home and artificial intelligence applications that enhance resident wellbeing and challenges organizations to think proactively and plan for the future of aging. Sheena also works to address social isolation through initiatives that promote neigbhourhood connection and belonging such as "Lets Chat" benches. Beyond local contributions, Sheena has also served on the board with ATscale – Global Partnership for Assistive Technology and has been involved in international aging and technology networks. Sheena's dedication demonstrates her commitment to system-level change and inclusive innovation and are helping to shape a more inclusive, age-friendly future for Alberta's seniors.

Mukesh Kumar, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Mickey Amery, KC, MLA for Calgary-Cross

Mukesh Kumar has supported seniors through sustained involvement with the Fiji Canada Centre for more than two decades, contributing to programs that enhance social connection, cultural continuity, and overall wellbeing. Through his sustained involvement, he has helped create culturally responsive programs and environments where seniors feel respected, connected, and valued. His contributions have strengthened seniors' sense of belonging by promoting active participation in cultural traditions, enabling them to maintain their cultural identity while aging with dignity. By supporting intergenerational events and knowledge-sharing opportunities, he has fostered meaningful connections between seniors and younger generations, helping to reduce social isolation and preserve cultural heritage. Mukesh has also played a key role in organizing community gatherings, outreach initiatives, and educational opportunities that provide seniors with access to essential resources and services, improving their ability to navigate challenges relating to aging, migration, and language barriers. His efforts have directly contributed to increased social engagement, improved mental wellbeing, and greater community

integration for seniors. Mukesh's leadership and commitment have built a more inclusive and supportive community where seniors are empowered to remain active, connected, and resilient.

Uma Kumar, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Nagwan Al-Guneid, MLA for Calgary-Glenmore

Uma Kumar has been actively involved with the Fiji Canada Centre for more than 20 years, demonstrating a long-standing commitment to community service and senior support. Their work has focused on uplifting and empowering seniors from diverse cultural backgrounds by helping create inclusive, respectful, and supportive environments. Through sustained engagement, they have gained firsthand insight into the evolving needs of aging adults, particularly those facing migration-related challenges, language barriers, and cultural transitions. A core aspect of Uma's contribution has been promoting cultural preservation and intergenerational connection, encouraging seniors to remain engaged with traditions central to their identity. By supporting cultural events and community gatherings, seniors share stories, wisdom, and heritage with younger generations, strengthening community bonds. Uma's involvement has included organizing outreach activities, participating in cultural celebrations, and assisting seniors in accessing resources that support independence, dignity, and overall wellbeing through meaningful cultural, social, and educational services.

Vinod Kumar, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Irfan Sabir, MLA for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall

Vinod Kumar has dedicated more than 22 years to supporting seniors, with a particular focus on those who are isolated or without family. His long-standing volunteer work centers on improving seniors' emotional, social, and spiritual well-being through consistent, compassionate support. He regularly visits hospitals to spend time with seniors who are alone, offering reassurance and companionship during times of illness and recovery. He also ensures dignity at the end of life by arranging and performing funeral rites for seniors without family, showing deep respect and cultural sensitivity. In addition, he organizes monthly lunches and group outings across Alberta, creating meaningful opportunities for seniors to connect, stay active, and enjoy their community. Through ongoing spiritual guidance and teachings, he also helps seniors find comfort, purpose, and emotional strength. Through these efforts, Vinod has helped many seniors feel less isolated and more connected. His dedication, compassion, and consistency make him a deeply valued presence in the seniors' community.

Ken Longeway, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Dr. Luanne Metz, MLA for Calgary-Varsity

Ken Longeway is a volunteer whose sustained commitment has significantly improved the physical, emotional, and social well-being of seniors in Alberta. Since 2018, he has volunteered almost daily with YMCA Calgary as a fitness instructor at the Melcor YMCA at Crowfoot, teaching a full schedule of inclusive programs such as aquafit, gentle fit, and seated fitness. His classes consistently reach capacity, and he proactively added additional sessions to meet growing demand, ensuring seniors could continue accessing safe and welcoming programming. Ken's adaptive and inclusive approach enables seniors of all mobility levels to participate with confidence. Beyond

fitness instruction, Ken exemplifies compassion and community leadership by providing transportation, grocery assistance, and emotional support during times of illness or loss. Ken's volunteerism reflects dignity, inclusion, and respect, leaving a lasting impact on seniors' health and quality of life.

Bev Lussier, Morinville

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert

Bev Lussier is a dedicated volunteer in the Morinville area who serves as the Secretary and Service Officer of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 176, as well as Secretary for the Lions Club of Morinville. Through her leadership, Bev has supported initiatives that directly benefit seniors including accessibility supports, social inclusion events, wellness programing, and health-related fundraising. She played a leading role in organizing a Quilts of Valour ceremony where 18 veterans, many of whom were seniors, were formally recognized for their service with beautiful handmade quilts. This ceremony provided not only meaningful human connection for the senior recipients, but deep respect, gratitude, and emotional support. Bev's passion and commitment to supporting seniors is demonstrated by her decades of volunteer service, the genuine care applied to her work, and the lasting personal impact on the lives of seniors in her community.

Deseray Mason, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual Award
Rakhi Pancholi, MLA for Edmonton-Whitemud

Deseray is a committed Recreation Coordinator at Lifestyle Options: Riverbend who works diligently to develop and lead recreational and social programming for the seniors in her care that promotes belonging, inclusiveness and connection. She places strong emphasis on bringing the broader community into the residence by organizing live music, cultural events, and presentations that feature local volunteers, musicians, students, and community organizations. These partnerships allow residents to experience community events that might otherwise be difficult for them to access, thereby bridging the gap between the seniors community and the wider city. Her efforts contribute to a vibrant, supportive atmosphere within the residence where seniors feel connected and engaged, and families frequently express gratitude for her contributions to an environment that values wellbeing and happiness. Deseray's hard work and community building has made a lasting positive difference in the lives of the residents she serves.

Esther McDonald, Ohaton

Nominated for: Individual Award
Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose

Esther McDonald is a dedicated volunteer with Camrose and District Family and Community Support Services, contributing more than 550 hours to improve the well-being of older adults. She supports key programs such as Nav-CARE, and the Older Adult Services Team. As a Volunteer Navigator with Nav-CARE, she works with individuals and their families to promote quality of life. She also stepped in as the volunteer coordinator when funding was lost, ensuring the program continued. Esther also plays an essential role in the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program, helping low-income individuals access benefits and training new volunteers. Her compassion, leadership, and behind-the-scenes administrative support make her an invaluable contributor to seniors in the area.

Elfatih Mousa, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service, Alice Modin Awards

Amanda Chapman, MLA for Calgary-Beddington

Elfatih Mousa has demonstrated sustained and impactful leadership in support of seniors and the broader Sudanese community through his long-standing service with Sudanese community organizations across Canada. As current President of the Calgary Canadian Sudanese Community Association, and long-serving Board member, he has played a key role in advancing initiatives that promote the health, wellbeing, and social inclusion of community members, including seniors. He has contributed to culturally responsive programming that fosters community connection and preserves heritage, while also supporting national advocacy through his involvement with the Union of Sudanese Communities in Canada. During the COVID-19 pandemic he supported vulnerable individuals through active outreach and promoting access to social services. Elfatih continues to be a dedicated volunteer and community leader, advancing multiculturalism and improving the wellbeing of seniors in Calgary.

Krishna Naicker, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin Awards

Honourable Mickey Amery, KC, MLA for Calgary-Cross

Krishna Naicker is a dedicated community leader, volunteer, and priest who has served the Fiji-Canadian community in Alberta for more than three decades. Through his role with the Sangam Educational Cultural Society, he has provided spiritual guidance, cultural support, and a strong sense of connection for seniors. In addition to his religious leadership, he has held key roles within the organization, including 14 years as Vice President and four years as President, helping strengthen community engagement and cultural preservation. He regularly supports seniors through prayer services, visits, and cultural gatherings, as well he provides meaningful guidance and comfort during times of loss through funeral services and emotional support. His work has helped seniors remain connected to their culture, reduced isolation, and provided important emotional and spiritual support. Krishna Naicker’s long-standing dedication and compassionate service have made a lasting impact.

Dat Nguyen, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin Awards

Gurinder Brar, MLA for Calgary-North East

Dat Nguyen served as the Executive Director of the Vietnamese American Council and has been a committed member of the Vietnamese Canadian Veteran Association and the Vietnamese Seniors Association. Through his years of service and leadership, Dat has overseen key programs, community initiatives, and strategic partnerships that strengthened vital services for seniors. He helped develop and expand initiatives that address isolation, language barriers, and access to essential services, including assisting with translation services to ensure the accuracy and clarity of materials for seniors and community members. Dat’s dedication to advocating for elder wellbeing, promoting cultural continuity, and reducing barriers to supports has made a lasting positive impact on his community.

Ashley Oshiro, Calgary

Nominated for: Special Service Award

Eric Bouchard, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed

Ashley Oshiro is a community leader who has made a meaningful and growing impact by developing inclusive seniors programming that promotes active living and social connection. As a board member of the Shawnee Evergreen Community Association, she identified a gap in programming and helped establish a weekly gathering space where seniors come together to participate in exercise classes, attend presentations on relevant topics, and build meaningful social connections. Through thoughtful planning and consistent engagement, she has created a welcoming and supportive environment that encourages participation and inclusion. The program has seen strong and growing attendance, with many seniors traveling from surrounding communities, and sessions often reaching full capacity. Her work has reduced isolation, improved overall well-being, and strengthened community connection for seniors. Ashley's leadership, initiative, and commitment continue to make a positive and lasting impact on seniors in her community.

Aadi Patel, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual Award

Jasvir Deol, MLA for Edmonton-Meadows

Aadi Patel is a highly motivated volunteer at Ottewell Place Lodge, who works diligently to strengthen a sense of belonging, inclusion, and community among the residents. Motivated by lived experience as a second-generation immigrant, Aadi brings a deep appreciation for the opportunities and sense of belonging he and his family have found in Canada, along with a strong commitment to giving back to his community. He contributes meaningfully to resident wellbeing through inclusive, resident-centered activities and facilitates discussions that encourage respectful dialogue on local, national, and global topics. He consistently creates a safe and welcoming space where residents feel valued and comfortable sharing their perspectives. Aadi's hard work has significantly increased participation in activities at the lodge and has enhanced the lives of the residents.

Hitendrabhai and Bhagvatiben Patel, Fort McMurray

Nominated for: Individual Award

Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Hitendrabhai and Bhagvatiben Patel are active and highly valued volunteers in Fort McMurray. Together they have served the Gujarati Cultural Society and the Sanatan Madir Cultural Society by playing important roles in supporting cultural, social, and community events. They both actively work to reduce barriers by providing transportation for seniors to and from community events and by personally encouraging participation in cultural gatherings. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Patel have provided both cultural societies with dedicated leadership, enthusiasm, and practical supports that have significantly impacted the participation of seniors in the community, reduced social isolation, fostered a sense of belonging and cultural identity, and contributed to the overall wellbeing the community's seniors.

Vasant Patel, Fort McMurray

Nominated for: Alice Modin Award

Tany Yao, MLA for Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

Vasant is a senior volunteer who has made a significant positive impact on the community of Fort McMurray through promoting civic engagement, service leadership, and cultural inclusion. Immigrating to Canada in 2008, Vasant navigated the challenges of starting over in a new country while remaining committed to family and community values through local volunteer work. He has contributed to numerous initiatives including Canada Day celebrations, Food Bank drives, summer clean-up programs, and other charitable events, while also serving as a dedicated volunteer with the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Society. Vasant is an excellent example of active aging and life-long learning and serves as an inspiring role model that demonstrates there is no age limit on learning new skills and supporting your community.

George Pon, Spruce Grove

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Searle Turton, MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain

George is a community-minded Games Room Activity Coordinator at the Spruce Grove Golden Age Club. He is responsible for organizing the club's largest annual pool tournament where he goes above and beyond by personally reaching out to local businesses to secure door prizes, and contacts local newspapers to celebrate the winners. He brings a positive and helpful attitude to the club and has been a major contributor to the success of the events. He supports other leagues within the club and is always willing to lend a hand. George's hard work and dedication have enhanced the social lives of many seniors in the community by providing engaging, active, and inclusive activities.

Sushila Prahlad, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Alice Modin Awards

Honourable Tanya Fir, MLA for Calgary-Peigan

Sushila Prahlad has been a dedicated leader with the Fiji Women's Association of Calgary for over 30 years, making significant contributions to cultural preservation, women's empowerment, and community wellbeing. She began her service as Vice President in 1993 and was elected President in 2015, a role she has held for 11 years with integrity, compassion, and strong leadership. Throughout her tenure, Sushila has been committed to supporting seniors, organizing cultural programs, variety shows, and social events that foster connection, inclusion, and the celebration of Fijian heritage. Her efforts ensure that elders remain actively engaged, respected, and valued within the community. Beyond event leadership, she provides hands-on support to seniors and families during times of need, including assistance and comfort during community funerals. Her decades of service reflect a deep commitment to unity, cultural continuity, and compassionate leadership within the Fiji-Canadian community.

Satish Prasad, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Irfan Sabir, MLA for Calgary-Bhullar-McCall

Satish Prasad has devoted 25 years of compassionate volunteer service to the Calgary Ramayan Bhajan Mandali, with a strong focus on supporting seniors in the community. His long-standing commitment reflects a deep respect for elders and a desire to ensure they feel cared for, connected, and supported in their daily lives. Satish has played a key role in assisting seniors with essential needs, including the delivery of hot meals, groceries, and medication, helping reduce barriers faced by those with limited mobility or support. He has also provided reliable transportation to medical appointments, religious services, and community events, enabling seniors to remain active and engaged. In addition, Satish regularly visits elders during hospital stays, offering comfort, and reassurance. His service extends to physically demanding tasks such as snow removal, yard work, and home maintenance, particularly during Calgary's harsh winters. Through practical help and genuine kindness, Satish has become a trusted and valued presence for seniors and their families.

Marlene Raasok, Airdrie

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

Honourable Pete Guthrie, MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane

Marlene Raasok has dedicated decades of service to improving the lives of seniors and strengthening the communities and organizations that support them. Throughout her volunteer career, she has contributed her time, expertise, and leadership to initiatives focused on healthy aging, community wellbeing, innovation in seniors' care, and the development of stronger supports for older adults. Early in her contributions, Marlene served with Abrio Health, where she chaired the Partnership Committee and Health Leaders Council and helped advance community health planning, healthy aging strategies, affordable housing initiatives, and community support hubs. She also served as a founding Board Member of the Schlegel-University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging, helping establish a centre dedicated to research and innovation that continues to advance the quality of seniors' care. Today, Marlene continues to serve older Albertans through several volunteer leadership roles. As Chair of the Board of The Good Samaritan Society and a Board Member of the Alberta Association on Gerontology, she contributes to initiatives focused on healthy aging, continuing care, system improvement, and collaboration across the seniors sector. She has also helped advance projects such as the Futures Policy Forum, the Reimagining Aging Summit, and the Community and Continuing Care Technology Innovation Roadmap, bringing organizations together to address challenges and opportunities affecting older adults. In addition to her governance and leadership work, Marlene volunteers with Drive Happiness, helping older adults access services, attend appointments, and remain connected to their communities. She also mentors emerging leaders and encourages volunteerism among others. Her sustained commitment to service has strengthened supports for seniors and contributed to lasting improvements in communities across Alberta.

Yvonne Ruys, Strathmore

Nominated for: Individual Award

Chantelle De Jonge, MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore

Yvonne Ruys, through sustained volunteer service and community leadership, has contributed to the wellbeing and social inclusion of seniors in Strathmore. Her long-standing involvement with the Strathmore Happy Gang Society, including service as Director, Vice President, and currently secretary, has strengthened the organization's capacity to serve local seniors. Yvonne plays a central role in organizing programs and events that

bring seniors together in a welcoming and inclusive environment, while also supporting grant applications, local business donations, and fundraising initiatives that have resulted in facility improvements and maintained affordable membership fees. These efforts have enhanced both accessibility and participation for seniors across the community. In addition, her involvement with the Strathmore Legion’s Ladies Auxiliary supports broader community initiatives benefiting seniors, veterans, and their families. Known for her consistent, reliable leadership and practical support, Yvonne contributes to the smooth operation and long-term sustainability of the organizations she serves. Her work helps ensure seniors in Strathmore have ongoing opportunities for connection, participation, and support. Collectively, her contributions strengthen community infrastructure for older adults and reinforce Strathmore’s reputation as a senior-friendly community.

Bernice Sewell, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual Award

David Shepherd, MLA for Edmonton-City Centre

Bernice Sewell is a long-serving and dedicated leader at Sage Seniors Association who has spent more than 25 years advancing the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of older adults in Alberta. As Director of Operations, she has played a transformative role in strengthening supports for seniors experiencing abuse, social isolation, and other systemic barriers, while helping to shape innovative, community-based solutions that benefit older Albertans. One of Bernice's most significant achievements was developing Canada's first Seniors' Safe House in 2000, creating a pioneering model of protection, recovery, and support for older adults experiencing abuse. She designed the program's framework, policies, and care model, and helped expand the Safe House into a nationally recognized service that has supported hundreds of seniors in moving from crisis to stability. It remains one of the few elder abuse shelters in Canada and the only one in Northern Alberta. Beyond the Safe House, Bernice has advanced numerous initiatives addressing elder abuse, social isolation, mental health, and service navigation, helping thousands of seniors access essential supports and remain connected to their communities. Through her leadership, innovation, and commitment to equity, she has strengthened seniors' services across Edmonton and helped establish lasting systems of support for older Albertans.

Dianne Soltys, Spruce Grove

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Searle Turton, MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain

Dianne Soltys is an exceptional community volunteer who is currently serving as the Activity Director for Zone 5 of the Alberta 55+ organization. Over her years of service to the club, Dianne has demonstrated expert organizational and event planning competency and has earned a distinguished reputation for her work organizing the provincial cribbage zone qualifiers in Spruce Grove. Her dedication to the organization and the seniors it supports is evident in her previous service as the Director on the club’s executive committee, where she provided valuable insight sound judgement, and constructive guidance for its continued growth and success. Through her consistent leadership and hands-on involvement, Dianne has strengthened programming, enhanced member engagement, and helped create a welcoming and inclusive environment where older adults feel connected, valued, and supported.

Gaurav Srivastava, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual, Special Service Awards

Honourable Irfan Sabir, MLA For Calgary-Bhullar-McCall

Guarav Srivastava has demonstrated strong leadership and meaningful impact on the wellbeing of seniors within Calgary's Indian community through his role as President of the Chitragupta Society of Calgary. Under his leadership, seniors have gained increased access to culturally meaningful activities, social gatherings, and community programs that promote connection, belonging, and continued engagement. These opportunities help reduce social isolation while supporting emotional wellbeing and cultural identity. In addition to fostering social inclusion, Guarav provides valuable practical support by assisting seniors with navigating complex administrative and legal processes, including documentation and matters related to their home country. This guidance reduces barriers, builds confidence, and ensures seniors can more fully access services and maintain independence. His approachable and compassionate manner has made him a trusted resource for both seniors and their families, and his contributions have helped create a more inclusive and supportive environment where seniors feel connected, respected and empowered.

Charles Tiop, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Lizette Tejada, MLA for Calgary-Klein

Charles Tiop is a dedicated volunteer and leader of the South Sudanese Canadian Association of Calgary who demonstrates deep commitment to supporting seniors and strengthening community connections. Charles works diligently to organize programs, plan trips, and coordinate community events designed to reduce isolation and create opportunities to meaningfully connect with and celebrate South Sudanese culture. He is an advocate for cultural preservation and designs events specifically for older adults that allow seniors to share their heritage, pass down traditions to younger generations, and maintain a strong sense of identity. His hard work actively contributes to a strong sense of belonging for older adults in the community, strengthens intergenerational connections, and promotes active living. Through his consistent leadership and compassion, Charles has built an environment where seniors can thrive socially, culturally, and emotionally. His work continues to strengthen the South Sudanese community in Calgary and reflects his unwavering dedication to service, unity, and cultural pride.

Dr. Treena Trustham, Spruce Grove

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Searle Turton, MLA for Spruce Grove-Stony Plain

Dr. Treena Trustham is a widely respected Care of the Elderly Physician in Spruce Grove whose compassionate presence and person-centered approach to care has created a lasting positive impact on the community. As the Medical Director of Westview Long Term Care and as a hospice physician, she works to ensure care extends beyond the patient, offering guidance and reassurance to families as they navigate difficult and emotional transitions. She is an advocate not only for physical care, but also for social and emotional care of seniors and their families and has contributed to a more inclusive, supportive system that recognizes and uplifts caregivers as vital partners in care. Dr. Trustham's clinical expertise is matched by her deep empathy and her commitment to treat every individual with dignity, respect and compassion at the most critical stages of life. She delivers exemplary care to the most vulnerable members of the local community, offering guidance, building trust, and committing her own time to meet seniors where they are most comfortable.

As a board member of the Westview Primary Care Network, Dr. Trustham contributes to planning and improvements that strengthen care for seniors across the region, and acts as an advocate for older adults with dementia and complex needs, ensuring their perspectives are heard. She is actively involved in the Westview Dementia Collaborative, contributing practical community-based solutions for individuals living with dementia and those who support them. Her work helps close the gap between medical care and daily living, making services more accessible, coordinated, and responsive to real needs. Dr. Trustham embodies the spirit of collaboration, generosity, and advocacy, inspiring colleagues and enhancing the lives of countless seniors and their families.

Gary Ursu, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East

Gary Ursu has served as President of the Forest Heights–Fonda Community for the past 25 years, focusing on strengthening neighborhood connections and supporting residents, particularly seniors. He has been a strong advocate for senior well-being, securing funding and partnerships to deliver programs that reduce isolation and promote active, social engagement. His leadership has sustained popular initiatives such as weekly Bingo Nights and the annual Seniors' Stampede Breakfast, fostering inclusion and sense of belonging. Gary's long-standing commitment to connection and seniors' well-being has generated a legacy of inclusion and community pride.

Salimah Walji-Shivji, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award
Vacant, Calgary-Shaw

Salimah is the CEO of AgeCare, a leading Canadian senior care organization dedicated to creating communities that support aging with dignity and independence. Through Salimah's leadership, she helped establish the organization as a leading provider of senior care in Canada. Through her work, she has influenced how aging, community, and care are understood and supported. A recent example of this leadership is the launch of the AgeCare Research Chair in Aging at Mount Royal University, a strong private-public collaboration focused on improving quality of life for older adults and advancing community-based aging research.

Joan Wanuch, Paddle Prairie

Nominated for: Individual Award
Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River

Joan Wanuch is a dedicated Program Coordinator serving the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement. She is recognized for her outstanding commitment to supporting, strengthening, and uplifting Métis Settlement Elders and seniors by creating welcoming, culturally grounded programs that honour Elder's knowledge, traditions, and lived experiences. Joan's leadership is deeply rooted in the Métis cultural values of community, resilience, kinship and respect for Elders as carriers of history and identity, and she approaches her work with humility and warmth. Joan works hard to develop programming that is culturally meaningful, builds strong relationships across the Settlement, and fosters collaboration with community partners to improve access to important services, ensuring Elders are respected within their community context and traditions. She ensures Elders are not just participants in programs, but honoured members of a living, thriving culture. Joan's work has made a lasting positive impact on the community.

Shannon Wilcox, Didsbury

Nominated for: Individual Award

Honourable Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Shannon Wilcox, in her role as the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) Coordinator for the Town of Didsbury, has spearheaded numerous innovative and impactful learning and social opportunities for local seniors. Shannon works diligently to facilitate lasting connections, reduce isolation and loneliness, and help individuals understand their changing world by creating innovative programs that cover topics from pensions and taxes to mortality and art. She worked with another FCSS coordinator in Carstairs to organize a community screening of a Canadian documentary called Silver Screamers which follows a group of seniors as they make an amateur horror movie and explores concepts of isolation and stepping outside of one's comfort zone. Her non-traditional and creative approach to discussing difficult topics and providing important education has made a significant positive impact on the seniors in her community and has sparked conversations about aging, connection, and the role of seniors in community life.

Patricia Wilkes, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual Award

Peggy Wright, MLA for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

Patricia Wilkes is an exceptional volunteer and current president of the Friends of St. Michael's Society of Edmonton. Her leadership and dedication have made a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors. After retiring as St. Michael's Volunteer Coordinator, Pat continued her commitment by volunteering. As president, she leads fundraising and community-building efforts, ensures compliance with bylaws and guidelines, and actively supports bingo and casino fundraisers that provide vital funding for senior programs and services. Pat also volunteers hands-on with the weekly tuck cart, creating opportunities for connection and joy, and serves on the Ethics Committee at St. Michael's Health Group. Her compassion, generosity, and unwavering commitment exemplify the very best of community volunteerism.

Christina Young, Calgary

Nominated for: Individual Award

Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East

Christina has made a meaningful contribution to the wellbeing of seniors through her consistent involvement with the Erinwoods Community Association over the past five years. Her work with the community pantry program ensures that seniors have reliable access to essential food supports delivered in a respectful and accessible manner, helping to reduce food insecurity and support independence. She also contributes to workshops that promote social engagement and learning, with a particular focus on creating inclusive opportunities for older adults to remain active and connected. Through her support of the Victory Quilts initiative – a senior-led initiative that creates handmade blankets for individuals undergoing chemotherapy – Christina helps facilitate seniors' involvement in purposeful, community-driven activities, fostering a sense of contribution, dignity, and connection. In addition to these structured programs, she provides practical, day-to-day assistance to seniors, including help with grocery shopping, accompaniment to medical appointments, and support with mobility in the community. These efforts reduce barriers to accessing services and enhance safety and confidence among seniors. Overall, Christina's contributions strengthen community supports, reduce isolation, and improve quality of life for seniors by fostering connection, accessibility, and ongoing engagement.

Organization Nominations

Nonprofit, Business, Special Service Awards
Listed alphabetically.

Alberta Continuing Care Association

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Brooks Acrand-Paul, MLA for Edmonton-West Henday

The Alberta Continuing Care Association (ACCA) is a provincial nonprofit established in 1981 that offers sustained leadership in strengthening Alberta's continuing care system and improving outcomes for seniors. Through ongoing advocacy, ACCA has contributed to the development of legislation, standards and funding approaches that enhance safety, dignity, and quality of care across home care, supportive living, and facility-based settings. Its work has supported the transition toward more flexible, seniors-centred care models and advanced policies that enable aging in place and greater access to community-based supports. ACCA also fosters collaboration and innovation by convening providers, government, and sector partners through forums, conferences, and working groups that promote shared learning and adoption of best practices. These efforts help improve consistency and coordination of care, address system challenges such as workforce capacity and infrastructure, and support the delivery of person-centered services. Through its role as a sector convener, ACCA amplifies the needs of seniors in system-level decision-making and strengthens alignment across the continuing care sector. This coordinated approach has improved quality of care, stronger service integration and enhanced quality of life for Alberta seniors and their families.

Alta Vi Memorial Society, Viking

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose

Alta Vi Memorial Society, founded in 1988, provides enjoyment, enrichment, comfort and safety to residents of Vialta Lodge in Viking. Through memorial donations and grants, the society has improved the atmosphere of Vialta Lodge with upgraded equipment and furnishings, garden beds and planters, a gazebo, and a barbeque all to provide the residents with a comfortable and safe space to live and reduce social isolation. Improvements made to the building's ramp entrance and a new sound system for the common area have reduced barriers to participation for seniors with physical disabilities and impairments, helping them feel included and improving their quality of life. Alta Vi Memorial Society has made a significant and lasting positive impact on the seniors in the Viking and surrounding areas.

Amore Care, Edmonton

Nominated for: Business, Special Service Awards
Gurtej Singh Brar, MLA for Edmonton-Ellerslie

Amore Care is an Edmonton-based home care provider delivering personalized, non-medical services that enable seniors to maintain independence, safety, and dignity while aging in place. Through customized care plans tailored to individual physical, emotional, and social needs, the organization provides holistic support including personal care, companionship, meal preparation, medication reminders, transportation, and respite services. Amore Care works hard to provide consistent caregiver assignments, which fosters trust, emotional support, and continuity of care, while an emphasis on meaningful relationships helps reduce isolation and improve overall

wellbeing for clients. Their approach integrates compassionate service with innovative tools, including real-time communication platforms that enhance transparency and provide families with confidence and peace of mind. By supporting family caregivers with respite and ongoing updates, the organization contributes to reduced stress and burnout. Collectively, these efforts have a positive impact on seniors and families in Edmonton, supporting comfort, confidence, and dignity at home.

Building Brains Together, Lethbridge

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable Nathan Neudorf, *MLA for Lethbridge-East*

Building Brains Together is a nonprofit organization focused on enhancing cognitive health, reducing social isolation, and supporting seniors to age well through innovative, research-informed programming. Working in partnership with the University of Lethbridge, the organization bridges academic research and community service to deliver accessible and engaging programs tailored to older adults. Its “Strengthening the Aging Brain” program combines interactive education on topics such as memory, stress, sleep, and lifestyle with guided brain-training activities designed to build cognitive function and confidence. Programs are carefully structured to be inclusive for seniors with varying abilities, while also creating a strong focus on social connection, peer support, and community engagement. The delivery model intentionally engages seniors as contributors, leaders, and knowledge holders, not passive recipients. The organization has expanded delivery across multiple sites and built partnerships with local organizations to strengthen reach and sustainability. Participant feedback and formal evaluations show improvements in cognitive skills, confidence, and overall well-being. Building Brains Together’s innovative and evidence-based approach is helping seniors remain independent, active, and meaningfully connected within their communities.

Calgary Heritage Housing, Calgary

Nominated for: Nonprofit, Special Service Awards
Lizette Tejada, MLA for Calgary-Klein

Calgary Heritage Housing (CHH) is a not-for-profit Housing Management Body that oversees 14 affordable seniors housing properties in the Calgary area. These properties are designated for seniors capable of independent living who are of low to moderate income. To combat food insecurity among tenants who were struggling to make ends meet, CHH partnered with the local chapter of Second Harvest, a program that donates surplus food from local grocers to nonprofit or charity organizations who qualify. Through this program, fresh produce, dairy, and bakery items deemed unfit to sell, but still within use-by date, are saved and donated to those in need rather than becoming waste. CHH has cultivated a reliable and robust list of dedicated volunteers who pick up this donated food and distribute it between its fourteen properties and boasts a perfect performance record for never missing a pick-up time. Between March 2025 and April 2026, CHH picked up and delivered a total of ~9000 lbs. of food, valued at roughly $35,207. Reaching far beyond the usual responsibility of a landlord, this hugely impactful volunteer initiative has helped reduce barriers associated with food insecurity and The Canadian Red Cross Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP) supports seniors across Alberta by enabling safer and timely transitions from hospital to home. At a critical point in recovery, the program provides essential medical equipment, helping seniors maintain independence, reduce risk, and recover with dignity. Each year, HELP serves more than 28,000 Albertans by providing over 52,000 pieces of equipment to support recovery following illness, injury, or surgery. In Alberta, this support is strengthened through integration with the Friendly Calls program, which offers wellness check-ins and ongoing social connections. This added layer helps identify

emerging needs, reduces isolation, and connects seniors to appropriate community supports before challenges escalate. The program is possible because of a large and dedicated volunteer network, contributing thousands of hours across urban, rural, and remote communities. Their dedication provides equipment repairs, technical assistance, and various client services. This model not only extends service reach but also reinforces community connection and trust. Healthcare providers also rely on HELP to support timely hospital discharges and safer recovery at home. Overall, HELP demonstrates a strong, coordinated approach to community-based care, making a meaningful and sustained difference in the lives of seniors across the province.

accessibility as well as promote a sense of community and belonging among residents. CHH and their partnership with Second Harvest have established exemplary community infrastructure that benefits the community and the environment.

Calgary Seniors Housing Forum Society, Calgary

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, MLA for Highwood

Calgary Seniors Housing Forum Society, established in 2008, supports older adults in Calgary by improving access to clear, unbiased information on housing options and services that promote healthy aging. Through free forums, presentations, and resource materials, the Society has directly reached more than 7,200 seniors and continues to engage approximately 400 participants annually through biannual events delivered across the city. Its outreach extends further through smaller community presentations and longstanding media contributions, including bi-monthly articles in the Calgary Herald since 2019, reaching an estimated 100,000 readers per issue. These efforts have increased awareness of the housing continuum and connected seniors, families, and caregivers to trusted resources, supporting informed decision-making and improved independence. The society's inclusive delivery model offers in-person, plain-language sessions with opportunities for follow-up support which reduces barriers related to digital access, income and social isolation. Through sustained community partnerships and volunteer leadership, the Society has strengthened access to information, enhanced community connections, and improved quality of life and wellbeing for seniors across Calgary.

Canadian Red Cross: Health Equipment Loan Program in Alberta

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

Jason Stephan, MLA for Red Deer-South

Carya, Calgary

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo

Carya is a Calgary-based nonprofit with over a century of service supporting individuals and families, with a strong focus on helping older adults age safely with dignity in their communities. Its approach is characterized by a broad range of integrated services, including caregiver support, system navigation, counselling, and education, delivered through a coordinated and compassionate model that recognizes the complex and varied needs of seniors. Programs such as Elder Friendly Communities promotes social connection, reduces isolation, and encourages meaningful participation in community life, contributing to improved wellbeing and a stronger sense of belonging among older adults. For those facing urgent or complex situations, the Older Adult Stabilization Crisis Outreach Team provides timely, responsive assistance grounded in practical problem-solving and respect.

Through the In Place Social Prescribing Network, The Way in Network, and financial wellness services, older adults are supported to navigate income benefits, housing, food access, transportation and other essential systems. Carya also plays a key role in elder abuse prevention and response through collaborative partnerships that enhance safety and support for vulnerable seniors. In 2025, the organization supported more than 2,000 older adults, helping to improve stability and independence while strengthening overall community support systems.

The Evergreens Foundation, Hinton

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead

The Evergreens Foundation is a well-established nonprofit supporting seniors across west-central Alberta through housing, community-based services, and a strong commitment to dignity, safety, and connection. It plays an essential role in helping older adults remain independent and engaged within their communities. In addition to its everyday services, the Foundation has demonstrated exceptional leadership during multiple wildfire emergencies: Jasper/Chetamon in 2022, Edson and Yellowhead County in 2023 and Jasper in 2024. The Foundation coordinated evacuations for entire seniors communities, ensured continuity of care for vulnerable residents, and provided tailored support addressing medical, mobility, and emotional needs during displacement. Its approach reflects strong planning, communication, and coordination, with a focus on maintaining dignity and stability for seniors even in crisis situations. The Foundation’s impact extends beyond immediate response, supporting recovery and helping seniors and families regain confidence and routine after disruption. Its ability to consistently deliver both high-quality daily services and effective crisis response demonstrates a rare combination of preparedness, resilience, and leadership. The Evergreens Foundation stands out as a highly impactful organization that strengthens communities and ensures seniors are supported through both everyday life and extraordinary challenges.

Everitt Gardens, St. Albert

Nominated for: Special Service Award
Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert

Everitt Gardens is a senior living community recognized for its strong commitment to dignity, innovation, and person-centred care. It provides a supportive, home-like environment where seniors are empowered to live with independence, purpose, and meaningful connection. The organization delivers a wide range of inclusive programs that support cognitive health, physical wellbeing, and social engagement. Its Men’s Memory Care Enhancement Program—unique in Alberta—offers tailored, purpose-driven activities for men living with dementia, improving engagement, emotional wellbeing, and sense of identity. Everitt Gardens also fosters strong intergenerational connections through partnerships with local schools and libraries, creating regular opportunities for shared learning and community interaction. Volunteerism and student placements are deeply integrated into programming, strengthening both service delivery and community ties. Residents benefit from improved social connections, reduced isolation, and enhanced quality of life. Families and staff report increased engagement, stronger relationships, and a greater sense of belonging among residents. Everitt Gardens stands out for its innovative programming, inclusive approach, and leadership in creating a connected, compassionate, and age-friendly community.

GEF Seniors Housing, Edmonton

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable Sarah Hoffman, MLA for Edmonton-Glenora

GEF Seniors Housing, Alberta's largest nonprofit provider of seniors social housing, strives to create welcoming, affordable communities where seniors can live with dignity and thrive. Across Edmonton, GEF provides safe, affordable and well-maintained homes to 4000 seniors across 43 communities. Throughout the organization, volunteers support social programming, recreational activities, and relationship building for residents who may experience social isolation. GEF believes that volunteer retention is essential for program consistency, fostering trust, familiarity and a sense of belonging for residents and is seeing steady and significant increases in volunteer engagement and community participation. In January 2025, the organization also launched the GEF Employee Volunteer Program which provides all full and part-time employees with 7.5 paid volunteer hours annually. Through this initiative, employees have contributed 345 volunteer hours to organizations such as the Bissell Centre, Edmonton Food Bank, Terra Centre, and United Way. Over the past several years, GEF has expanded its community partnerships, nearly doubling the number of community and school organizations engaged. These partnerships bring programs directly to seniors homes and communities providing residents with access to services, activities, and supports that enhance their health, wellbeing, and social connection. A highlight of these partnerships is the Bridging Generations partnership with Harry Ainlay High School, where students and seniors meet regularly and build meaningful relationships while students document the seniors' life stories. This project culminated in public showcases at Southgate Mall and Edmonton City Hall and was recognized at the United Way Red Tie Gala. GEF's holistic, community centered approach delivers meaningful positive impact for seniors and the broader community.

In Place Social Prescribing Network, Calgary

Nominated for: Special Service Award
Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo

The In Place Social Prescribing Network (In Place) is a collaborative initiative between Carya, Calgary Seniors' Resource Society, and Jewish Family Services Calgary. Established in 2020, In Place is transforming how older adults in Calgary access support by creating a more integrated, responsive system of care. The program was created to address the critical gap created by older adults with complex challenges and their ability to navigate various health and social support systems. Through a single coordinated entry point, In Place connects older adults to the right combination of supports at the right time, improving accessibility to the appropriate levels of care and promoting independence and stability. The program operates by first addressing immediate needs such as food access, transportation, in-home assistance, and form completion while longer-term solutions are put in place. The impact of this support is practical and deeply personal for many older adults who have received assistance to transition from unsafe housing or precarious financial situations into stable and comfortable spaces. Through the social prescribing approach, health care providers connected with In Place refer older adults to community-based supports that address social factors affecting their health. In bridging healthcare and community-services, the network improves the quality of life for older adults while reducing reliance on emergency and acute care. Outreach teams provide in-home assessments and individualized plans, and strong partnerships with referral pathways from hospitals, primary care, and community agencies ensure older adults are identified early and connected to support quickly, thereby reducing risk and preventing escalation. The organization also actively engages with ethnocultural and underserved communities, ensuring supports are culturally responsive and accessible. In Place is making great strides in the future of senior-serving systems in Alberta through cross-sector collaboration, shared learning, and scalable, integrated, approaches that better support older adults to remain healthy, connected, and independent.

Jewish Family Services Calgary, Calgary

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Diana Batten, MLA for Calgary-Acadia

Jewish Family Services Calgary (JFSC) is a central pillar in Calgary's social service landscape. JFSC delivers integrated social, mental-health, and community-based programs that provide service and support to the people of Calgary along with a specialized and highly responsive continuum of services for older adults in the region. Their forward-thinking approach to seniors' wellbeing is rooted in the philosophy that social connection, purpose, and joy are critical components of healthy aging. Their outreach to isolated seniors, innovative social prescribing initiatives, and commitment to accessible mental health and addiction supports demonstrate a holistic understanding of aging and wellbeing. In the last fiscal year, they have experienced a significant increase in the number of individuals served and referrals received via their various programs and partnerships, demonstrating the growing confidence of healthcare partners and crisis response teams in the city, as well as the success of their community outreach and advocacy. JFSC demonstrates strong leadership, unending care, and creative solutions to the senior serving sector in Calgary and continues to make a significant difference in many vulnerable people's lives.

Lethbridge Senior Citizen Organization, Lethbridge

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Rob Miyashiro, MLA for Lethbridge-West

The Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization (LSCO) is a cornerstone of the seniors' community in Lethbridge and surrounding area, distinguished by its breadth of service, strong volunteer engagement, and deep commitment to inclusive, member-driven programming. Beyond providing recreation and social opportunities, LSCO offers a comprehensive range of supports that promote independence, wellness, and lifelong learning for older adults across diverse backgrounds and abilities. Its welcoming environment, affordable access, and proactive approach to reducing social isolation ensures seniors feel valued, connected and empowered to remain active contributors to community life. Initiatives such as the monthly Food Bank mobile truck provide accessible food support, the Senior Giving Tree provide gifts during the holiday season, and the free annual Christmas Dinner brings community members together in the spirit of inclusion and joy. Through decades of consistent service and collaborative partnerships, LSCO has become a gathering place and source of belonging for thousands of seniors in southern Alberta.

Morinville Curling Club, Morinville

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville- St. Albert

The Morinville Curling Club has long been a cornerstone of community life in Morinville and the wider Sturgeon County region, serving as a welcoming and inclusive hub where seniors are supported to remain active, socially connected and meaningfully engaged. Central to this work are the Club's Seniors and Sticks Curling leagues, which are intentionally designed to be safe, accessible, and welcoming for older adults with a wide range of physical abilities. Beyond participation, seniors play an integral leadership role, serving as league coordinators, ice technicians, board members, and mentors to new curlers; contributions that allow them to share their experiences, build capacity, and remain purposefully involved. The Club's commitment to equitable access, affordability, and inclusion is further reflected in its post-game gatherings, potlucks, and regional tournaments that

foster connection, belonging and community pride. Through these efforts, the Morinville Curling Club strengthens physical health, cognitive engagement and social participation for older adults, creating lasting benefits that extend well beyond the ice.

Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, Lethbridge

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable Nathan Neudorf, MLA for Lethbridge-East

Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre is recognized for delivering a comprehensive and accessible range of programs that support the health, independence, and social wellbeing of seniors in Lethbridge. Through a coordinated transportation service named the Go Friendly Shuttle, the Centre reduces barriers to participation and enables consistent engagement in recreational, educational, and wellness activities. Its diverse programming includes digital literacy training, physical activity opportunities, preventative education, and access to health and personal care services, all designed to support seniors' ability to age well. Strong partnerships with organizations including the AI for Inclusion and Research in Education Foundation, Lethbridge Polytechnic, University of Lethbridge, and the Canadian Mental Health Association enhance service delivery and exemplifies community leadership improving the wellbeing, dignity, and social connectedness of older adults. Nord-Bridge works to expand its reach and impact by carrying out outreach activities to residents of local care facilities, facilitating at-home services and supports, and by managing coordinated intergenerational game days where Grade 5 students from a local elementary school come to socialize, learn from, and play games with seniors. The Centre's ongoing commitment contributes to reduced social isolation, increased social connection, and improved overall wellness, while fostering an inclusive environment that emphasizes lifelong learning and community engagement.

Okotoks and District Seniors Club, Okotoks

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award
Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, MLA for Highwood

The Okotoks and District Seniors Club plays a significant role in enhancing the wellbeing and social connection of seniors aged 55 and over in Okotoks and surrounding area. Serving as a central and accessible hub, the Club works to reduce social isolation and related risks such as loneliness, depression, and gaps in care. Its impact is reflected in strong membership growth and the outpouring of positive recommendations by its members. The Club offers a wide range of recreational, educational, and social programs that support physical activity, lifelong learning, and meaningful social engagement. Partnerships with the Town of Okotoks and other organizations ensure seniors have access to timely information on health, finances, caregiving and safety, while initiatives such as the Memory Café provide targeted support for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. Regular social meals, affordable fees, and newcomer welcome packages promote inclusion and accessibility. Beyond its members, the Club contributes to the broader community through charitable giving, handmade item donations to vulnerable seniors, holiday outreach to isolated individuals, and fundraising for social service organizations. Collectively, these efforts create a safe, welcoming environment that strengthens connection, resilience, and quality of life for seniors in the community.

Salem Manor Nursing Home, Leduc

Nominated for: Nonprofit, Special Service Awards,

Brandon Lunty, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont

Salem Manor Nursing Home is recognized for its strong commitment to improving the wellbeing of seniors through innovative intergenerational programming that fosters meaningful connections with local children. Through regularly scheduled activities such as storytelling, arts and crafts, music, and seasonal events, residents are provided with consistent opportunities for social engagement and relationship-building. These interactions have led to notable improvements in residents' emotional wellbeing, reducing social isolation and enhancing their sense of belonging and purpose. Many seniors take on informal mentorship roles, sharing knowledge and life experiences, which reinforces their dignity and value within the community. The program also creates a lively and inclusive environment that supports cognitive stimulation and emotional resilience. Supported by dedicated staff and volunteers, the programming is thoughtfully designed to be safe, accessible, and person-centered. Overall, Salem Manor's approach has resulted in stronger social connections for residents and a more supportive community environment, demonstrating measurable positive impacts on seniors' quality of life while promoting sustained engagement and wellbeing.

Seniors Outreach Program Society, Three Hills

Nominated for: Nonprofit, Special Service Awards

Honourable Tara Sawyer, MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Seniors Outreach Program Society (SOR) has delivered sustained, community-based support to older adults and their families across Kneehill County for more than 31 years. Grounded in a model that engages seniors as both service recipients and volunteers, the organization strengthens social connection, independence, and overall well-being among local older adults. Through a network of trained volunteers and staff, SOR provides practical and social supports including companionship, transportation, food assistance, intergenerational programming, and group-based activities that reduce isolation and respond to changing needs. Programs such as Caring Visitors, digital literacy support, grief and loss groups, and Dementia-Friendly community initiatives address both preventative and emerging challenges faced by seniors. In addition, SOR offers advocacy and navigation support, assisting individuals and families with housing applications, health-related services, and access to government and seniors-specific programs. By combining wraparound support with responsive program development, the organization helps seniors maintain dignity, autonomy, and connection within their communities. The organization's consistent focus on volunteer engagement, service integration, and innovation has resulted in positive community impact and positions Seniors Outreach Program Society as an effective model for supporting older adults in Alberta.

Soleful Harmony, Calgary

Nominated for: Business Award

Honourable Matt Jones, MLA for Calgary-South East

Soleful Harmony is a Calgary-based mobile foot care service led by a Licensed Practical Nurse, delivering professional, evidence-based care directly to seniors in their homes and care settings. The service is designed to support seniors who face barriers to accessing traditional clinic care. Soleful Harmony provides care for a range of common and high-risk foot conditions, including those related to diabetes, reduced circulation, arthritis, and limited mobility. By bringing services directly to clients, it eliminates barriers such as transportation, pain, and frailty that often prevent seniors from seeking timely care. The service also places a strong emphasis on education, helping clients and families understand foot health, prevention strategies, and when to seek additional medical attention. This approach helps reduce pain, prevent complications, and support safer movement, allowing

seniors to remain active and engaged in their daily lives. Soleful Harmony fills a critical gap in community-based healthcare, delivering accessible, respectful, and high-quality care that supports seniors to age safely and with dignity at home.

Young Hearts Old Souls, Calgary

Nominated for: Nonprofit, Special Service Awards

Vacant, Calgary-Shaw

Young Hearts Old Souls (YHOS) is a youth-led non-profit organization that evolved from a grassroots response during the COVID-19 pandemic into an established organization fostering intergenerational well-being. In partnership with the Happy 50+ Association, volunteers aged 11 to 18 help reduce social and digital isolation among seniors, particularly those facing language and technology barriers. Through one-on-one support with Zoom, smartphones, and WeChat, YHOS has enabled seniors – especially immigrant seniors – to stay connected with family and access virtual programs, including bilingual wellness activities. English tutoring and digital mentorship have further supported seniors' participation in community life, seeing some seniors lead cultural workshops in calligraphy, origami, painting, and traditional Chinese catwalk, strengthening purpose, leadership, and social engagement. Through the Still Hands, Flowing Hearts project, YHOS also developed bilingual Tai Chi resources and QR-code instructional videos to support homebound seniors.

YHOS promotes physical activity and community engagement through intergenerational initiatives, including a project supported by the 2026 Jack Leslie Youth Environmental Grant. Youth and seniors worked together to rehabilitate approximately 500 square metres of land and participate in biodiversity monitoring, providing meaningful opportunities for seniors to remain active and engaged in community stewardship. The organization also enhances seniors' quality of life through practical supports such as grocery delivery for those with mobility limitations and emceeing community events celebrating significant milestones. Working alongside partners including the Calgary Public Library, Kerby Centre, and the City of Calgary, YHOS has built a sustainable model of intergenerational service and connection. Through more than 1,200 volunteer hours contributed by over 40 youth volunteers, YHOS has reduced isolation, improved digital literacy, and strengthened community participation among seniors, while empowering youth to develop leadership, empathy, and a deeper connection to their communities.