



# Minister's Seniors Service Awards

## 2024 - 2025 Nominees

### Contents

<b>Person Nominations .....</b>	<b>3</b>
• Stan Adamus, Lethbridge	3
• Daphne Anstey-Martin, Brooks	3
• Payton Baker, Whitecourt	3
• Vicky Beauchamp, Edmonton	3
• Erynn Biggar, Medicine Hat	4
• Linda Briggs, Penhold	4
• Ali Cada, Calgary	4
• Bryan and Merna Cermak, Caroline	5
• Jill Chambers, Calgary	5
• Sheila Clark, Strathmore	5
• Dawna Coslovi, Lethbridge	6
• Andre Cottreau, Camrose	6
• Shelley Dalueg, Red Deer	6
• Michelle Danyluk, Calgary	6
• Beverly Dixon, Calgary	7
• Mandy Drachenberg, Airdrie	7
• Gar Gar, Calgary	7
• Rick Helgeson, Nampa	7
• Dr. Rose Joudi, Calgary	8
• Jenny Laderoute, Gift Lake	8
• Maurice Laliberte, Nampa	8
• Francoise Lavoie, St. Isidore	9
• Lorey Marsden, Sundre	9
• Norman McLeod, St. Albert	9
• Clay Olson, Lethbridge	9
• Erhard Pinno and Glenys Smith, Camrose	10
• Jay Pritchard, Edmonton	10
• Marlene Raasok, Airdrie	10
• Shamim and Salim Ramji, Calgary	11
• Kiran Randhawa, Chestermere	11
• Bonnie Read, Lac Ste. Anne County	11
• Sandra Robin, Cochrane	11
• Judy Scanland, Sylvan Lake	12
• Cindy Siewert, Camrose	12
• Andy Steuri, Banff	12
• Ann Stewart, High Prairie	13
• Hal Strudwick, Camrose	13
• Keith Sumner, Lethbridge	13
• Allan Welke, Pincher Creek	13
• Elizabeth Welton, Okotoks	14
• Luanne Whitmarsh, Calgary	14
• Amy Wycislik, Calgary	14
• Trevor Young, Airdrie	15

<b>Organization Nominations.....</b>	<b>15</b>
• Battle River Lending Place Society, Camrose	15
• Bow Cliff Seniors Centre, Calgary	15
• The Brenda Strafford Foundation, Calgary	15
• Calgary Heritage Housing and Silvera for Seniors	16
• Calgary Immigrant Women's Association	16
• Canadian Zalmi Society, Calgary	16
• Carya, Calgary	17
• Claresholm and District Family and Community Support Services	17
• Concerts in Care Alberta, Edmonton	17
• Cycling Without Age, Red Deer	18
• Cypress View Foundation, Medicine Hat	18
• Filipino Retirees Association of Alberta, Edmonton	18
• Financial Concierge, Calgary	19
• FuseSocial, Fort McMurray	19
• GeriActors Theatre Company, Edmonton	19
• The Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton	20
• Happy 50+ Association, Calgary	20
• The Lending Cupboard, Red Deer	20
• Lethbridge Dopamine Boxing	20
• M&M Food Market, Sherwood Park	21
• Multigenerational Wellness Team - Carya, Calgary	21
• Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, Lethbridge	21
• Rocky View Foundation, Airdrie	22
• Seniors for Kids Society, Cochrane	22
• Strathmore Meals on Wheels	22
• Sylvan Lake Seniors Association	23
• Taber Meals on Wheels, Taber	23
• Tofield Golden Club	23
• Volunteer Airdrie Society	23
• Windsor Park Community League, Edmonton	24
• Wing Kei Care Centres, Calgary	24

## Person Nominations

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

### Stan Adamus, Lethbridge

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Nathan Neudorf, MLA for Lethbridge-East*

Stan Adamus preserves local history through the restoration of damaged gravestones for City Cemetery Services in Lethbridge. For over five years, Stan has worked to ensure that those who have passed, especially those without loved ones nearby, are remembered and honored.

Inspired by his father's military service, Stan places poppies and flags at all 28 Canadian war veteran graves in St. Patrick's Cemetery and carefully maintains each site. Stan also restored 165 vandalized and neglected gravestones at another city cemetery, placing a rose on each one as a sign of dignity and care.

To date, Stan has repaired approximately 300 graves in Lethbridge. Beyond his hands-on work, he researches city archives to identify unmarked or forgotten graves, helping ensure each life is acknowledged and remembered.

### Daphne Anstey-Martin, Brooks

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, MLA for Brooks-Medicine Hat*

For over 14 years, Daphne Anstey-Martin has been a key contributor to Brooks & District Seniors Outreach, leading initiatives that improve the quality of life for local seniors. She revitalized the Meals on Wheels program, growing it from 17 to over 80 participants within eight months, and introduced a Christmas Day meal delivery service to ensure no senior is left alone during the holidays.

Identifying the need for greater social connection, Daphne organized affordable bus trips for shopping and theatre outings, expanding the program to accommodate over 100 seniors annually. She also built a strong volunteer network of 70 drivers through innovative community outreach efforts.

In 2024, Daphne responded to emerging needs by coordinating two holiday gift campaigns, reaching more than 400 seniors across the region. Her leadership, resourcefulness, and dedication have made a lasting difference to the well-being of seniors in her community.

### Payton Baker, Whitecourt

Nominated for: Individual and Bridging Generations Awards

*Honourable Martin Long, MLA for West Yellowhead*

Payton Baker, a high school student in Whitecourt, brings comfort and joy to the seniors at Spruceview Lodge. Since December 2023, she has led efforts to support residents, including the establishment of a gift tree at her school to fulfill residents' wishes – an initiative that earned community recognition.

In February 2024, Payton surprised seniors with personalized Valentine's Day loot bags and later organized another December gift collection. Her compassion and consistent efforts have provided companionship and a sense of belonging to many residents. Payton's commitment to supporting seniors and spreading joy makes her a remarkable example to the community.

### Vicky Beauchamp, Edmonton

Nominated for: Individual, Community Philanthropy in Action, and Alice Modin Awards  
*Janis Irwin, MLA for Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood*

For more than 40 years, Vicky Beauchamp has shown compassion, leadership, and dedication to seniors in Alberta. Since 1999, she has been a volunteer at St. Michael's Long Term Care Centre and a key member of the Friends of St. Michael's Society of Edmonton. As President of the society for 16 years, and now Past President, Vicky led over 1,500 bingo and casino events – personally working most of them – which raised over \$2.5 million. These funds supported vital medical equipment, therapy tools, sensory rooms, recreational programs and maintenance at St. Michael's facilities.

Vicky continues to support the centre's annual fundraising events, promote its mission and advocate for seniors. Beyond fundraising, Vicky has spent countless weekends volunteering by greeting families as an ambassador, recruiting new volunteers, and raising awareness of seniors' needs within the community.

Through advocacy, she also played a crucial role in the 2017 proclamation of October 1 as Day of Older Persons in Alberta. Her extensive volunteerism extends to over 110 organizations across 40 years, including Ukrainian Canadian Social Services, Northlands, and Seniors Helping Seniors. Vicky's dedication has improved the lives of innumerable seniors, ensuring they feel valued and supported.

### **Erynn Biggar, Medicine Hat**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, MLA for Brooks-Medicine Hat*

Erynn Biggar is a fitness instructor improving the lives of older adults through her "Fun & Fitness" program. She leads long-standing classes at the Veiner Centre and the City of Medicine Hat. Her engaging, well-structured classes support a range of abilities and create a welcoming and comfortable space. Beyond fitness, Erynn supports community initiatives focused on fall prevention, helping seniors age safely at home.

The impact of Erynn's work is clear in the nomination's testimonials where over 20 older adults attested to her skill, encouragement, and the positive transformations they've experienced. Their stories reflect Erynn's genuine care, positive energy, and commitment to promoting the health and happiness of seniors.

### **Linda Briggs, Penhold**

Nominated for: Individual, Community

Philanthropy in Action, and Alice Modin Awards  
*Honourable Devin Dreesen, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

Linda Briggs has been key in transforming the Penhold Drop-In Centre into a dynamic hub for senior engagement and community connections. As the driving force behind its operations, Linda

manages everything from bingo nights, potlucks, and newsletters – she even makes sure the centre is welcoming every morning, by arriving early to prepare coffee for guests. Importantly, Linda also leads impactful fundraising initiatives and has a proven ability to secure grants and promote facility rentals, which have all helped to sustain and enhance the centre.

Beyond her work for the centre, Linda demonstrates philanthropic and civic leadership. Under her guidance, the centre has donated thousands of dollars to the local museum, schools, firefighters, and food drives. She also actively volunteers in broader community events, including Discovery Night, hockey games, elections, and the Fall Festival. Her dedication also extends to providing neighbours rides to appointments.

Through her leadership, advocacy, and hands-on service, Linda demonstrates not only her commitment to the well-being of seniors, but her broader community.

### **Ali Cada, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual and Bridging Generations Awards

*Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, MLA for Highwood*

Ali Cada fosters connection and joy between generations, particularly seniors living with dementia. He introduced Opening Minds Through Art to Calgary, a groundbreaking program that pairs older adults experiencing dementia with student volunteers to co-create art and build meaningful connections. For over a decade, Ali has championed this intergenerational initiative. His work fosters understanding, respect, and genuine collaboration across all ages.

Through his program, Ali has created opportunities for students and volunteers to connect with older adults and reduce stigma associated with dementia. Ali is held in high regard by University of Calgary nursing students, faculty, and the broader community. Nursing students report personal and professional growth from participating in his programs. Meanwhile, older adults enjoy a supportive space where they can connect, create, and be valued for their strengths, rather than their limitations.

Beyond Opening Minds Through Art, Ali leads the Creative Aging Society of Calgary, expanding creative and intergenerational programs citywide. Ali, known for his ability to create inclusive environments that transcend age and diagnosis, is not only breaking down stigmas; he is rebuilding understanding, empathy, and connection across generations.

### **Bryan and Merna Cermak, Caroline**

Nominated for: Alice Modin Award

*Honourable Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

Bryan and Merna Cermak have served as longstanding volunteers in Caroline and area for upwards of 15 different organizations. By serving their community with dedication and compassion, they have accumulated years of volunteer hours.

On Friday nights, the couple is usually found at the local Royal Canadian Legion, preparing meals for the community to connect over a home cooked meal. For 24 years, they have organized the annual Caroline Christmas Dinner, to bring together families and individuals who may not have anyone to celebrate with.

For rural seniors, Bryan provided essential transportation by driving Clearwater County's senior's bus. Currently, Bryan contributes to restoration projects at the Caroline Museum, while Merna supports its fundraising efforts.

Married for over 57 years, Bryan and Merna still enjoy finding activities that allow them to give back and spend time together. Their legacy of volunteerism lives on in their children and grandchildren, who now also serve in their communities. The couple exemplifies the spirit of giving, making their small rural community a safe, supportive and welcoming place to live.

### **Jill Chambers, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East*

Jill Chambers, President and Founder of Financial Concierge and a leader at Aging in Place Supports Calgary, is an advocate for

seniors' independence and well-being. With a background in nursing, healthcare, financial services, and executor work, she helps older adults remain safe and comfortable in their homes by offering financial support, navigating healthcare systems, and emotional care.

Jill leads proactive initiatives, including numerous presentations on critical topics such as cognitive decline, financial planning, senior safety, and advanced care planning. She often speaks at senior-focused organizations to expand access to services.

Jill's efforts have fostered safer, more informed communities for seniors. She consistently goes above and beyond – driving seniors to medical appointments, opening her home in emergencies, and wearing full personal protective equipment to help address hoarding situations. Her distinctive combination of financial and healthcare expertise, paired with her deep personal commitment, makes her an exceptional resource for older adults.

### **Sheila Clark, Strathmore**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Chantelle de Jonge, MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore*

Sheila Clark has volunteered for Strathmore Meals on Wheels since 1986. From delivering meals with her children to now including her grandson, she embodies the program's family-oriented service and values.

Sheila has served in various roles, including treasurer, secretary, and has led as president for the last 20 years. She is committed to helping seniors receive hot, nutritious meals each weekday, supporting their independence and reducing isolation. She also supports the collection of donations to ensure meals are subsidized for seniors on fixed income, despite rising costs.

Her efforts provide peace of mind for families, knowing their loved ones are cared for. Sheila consistently goes above and beyond, inspiring others to get involved and make a difference.



**Dawna Coslovi, Lethbridge**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Rob Miyashiro, MLA for Lethbridge-West*

For nearly 30 years, Dawna Coslovi has worked to improve the lives of seniors in southern Alberta as Chief Executive Officer of the Green Acres Foundation. Since 1996, she has led the expansion of the Foundation to over 20 seniors' residences, delivering quality, affordable housing and integrated care for thousands of older adults. Dawna is recognized for her compassion, innovation, and commitment to seniors' dignity and well-being.

Dawna is also a hands-on advocate who prioritizes human connection, safety, and empowerment. She has championed age-friendly design, wellness programs, transportation services, and volunteer engagement — ensuring seniors are supported in meaningful ways. Her collaboration with local and provincial partners has positioned Green Acres as a model for seniors' housing in Alberta. Dawna fosters a culture of philanthropy and mentorship, invests in workforce development, and leads with both empathy and purpose.

**Andre Cottreau, Camrose**

Nominated for Individual Award

*Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose*

Andre Cottreau is a volunteer with the Camrose & District Family and Community Support Services, dedicating his time to the Meals on Wheels program in partnership with the local bakery. Every Monday, he helps prepare homemade meals, ensuring seniors receive delicious, nutritious, and affordable food. This service reduces stress related to cooking, combats malnutrition, and enhances food security. In February alone, Andre helped produce 732 meals.

Originally assigned to meal packaging, Andre's role grew as he applied his culinary talents and willingness to help. He now assists kitchen staff with planning, preparing, and organizing meals. Recently, his contributions have grown, making a significant impact on meal production and delivery. Andre's enthusiasm, devotion, and sense of humour make him a valued team

member. His presence brings joy and energy to the kitchen and his work supports the community.

**Shelley Dalueg, Red Deer**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Adriana LaGrange, MLA for Red Deer-North*

Shelley Dalueg is a leader and advocate for seniors in Red Deer, notably through her role as General Manager at Deer Park Village. She fosters a compassionate, inclusive environment, reflected in strong satisfaction ratings from residents and staff. Her leadership creates a sense of family and belonging, shaping a community where seniors feel valued and empowered.

Outside of her role, Shelley volunteers with the Golden Circle Seniors Resource Centre, the Red Deer Rotary Club, and the Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse. Her efforts include fundraising for the Alzheimer's Society and organizing charitable initiatives like the Christmas Angel program. Also, she leads the Rotary Seniors Christmas Concert and hosts annual summer barbecues at her acreage to connect residents with farm life and nature.

Drawing on her healthcare background, including roles in Red Deer Home Care, orthopedic surgery, and in submitting grant applications, Shelley continues to support seniors through leadership and advocacy. Her provision of crucial support for seniors facing isolation or end-of-life challenges is deeply appreciated.

**Michelle Danyluk, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo*

Michelle serves as a member of the 211 Alberta team as a Seniors Resource Specialist. Her extensive experience in Alberta's senior sector provides her with a deep understanding of available programs and potential barriers, enabling her to provide outstanding service. Michelle offers expert information, referrals, system navigation, and compassionate advocacy.

Michelle consistently connects seniors with necessary resources and advocates on their behalf with external organizations. This dedication has created a meaningful impact, ensuring seniors with complex needs receive necessary support. Her empathy and leadership inspire others to do the same.

### **Beverly Dixon, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Parmmeet Singh Boparai, MLA for Calgary-Falconridge*

Beverly Dixon is a volunteer whose leadership has shaped a thriving seniors ministry within her church and community. As founder and ongoing coordinator, she plans regular gatherings and outings that promote fellowship and active living, and organizes guest speakers on key topics such as health, safety, and financial literacy.

In addition to programming, she has secured donors to ensure financial barriers do not prevent participation. Her efforts have helped older adults access community, learning, and meaningful engagement. Her work reflects a strong commitment to service, rooted in compassion and a desire to enrich the lives of seniors.

### **Mandy Drachenberg, Airdrie**

Nominated for: Individual Award

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

Mandy Drachenberg brings warmth, dignity and connection to seniors through her leadership at Rocky View Foundation. As Lodge Manager, she creates a vibrant and home-like atmosphere where residents feel safe, supported and valued. Her work includes organizing themed events, wellness activities, and meaningful outings that reflect her deep respect for each resident's needs and preferences.

Mandy leads with collaboration and empathy, setting a high standard for quality care. Under her guidance, staff feel supported and motivated, resulting in a compassionate and consistent standard of care. She strengthens connections between seniors, families, and the broader community through open communication and inclusive programming.

Testimonials describe the lodge as welcoming and filled with joy and demonstrate that Mandy's leadership and compassion have transformed the lives of residents.

### **Gar Gar, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual, Bridging Generations, and Community Philanthropy in Action Awards

*Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East*

Gar Gar is a community advocate and cultural leader who has spent more than 20 years supporting immigrant and multicultural seniors in Calgary's diverse communities. He delivers over 1,500 food hampers annually, organizes volunteer help for errands and snow removal, and creates culturally accessible and inclusive outdoor spaces that reflect cultural values.

As the founder of the East Calgary Food Bank and Pet Food Hub, Gar Gar has helped address food insecurity in areas with limited access to services. His initiatives, such as "Walk with a Cop" and "Adopt-a-Grandparent" build intergenerational connection, safety and learning between seniors and youth.

Gar Gar's work has helped reduce isolation, gives seniors more opportunities to lead and participate in community life, and ensures access to essential culturally appropriate support. Frequently recognized in the media as a "hometown hero" and speaker on aging with dignity and newcomer inclusion, Gar Gar shows how communities can honour their elders, not only through words but through sustained actions and service.

### **Rick Helgeson, Nampa**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River*

Rick Helgeson has made a lasting impact in Northern Sunrise County, especially around Nampa, Alberta, through his leadership, dedication to community enrichment and seniors' recognition. He serves as president of both the Harmon Valley Agricultural Society and the Nampa & District Historical Society, helping

preserve local heritage while fostering intergenerational engagement.

Rick is a driving force behind numerous community events, including rodeos and other local initiatives. As a member of several organizations, including the Nampa Pickleball Group, he was instrumental in upgrading court surfaces and promoting active living among seniors. He also used his creative problem-solving skills to implement a new court sign-in process to improve accessibility.

Through his volunteer work, he ensures seniors are honoured, connected, and engaged, cultivating a strong sense of pride and belonging.

### **Dr. Rose Joudi, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo*

Dr. Rose Joudi is an advocate for inclusive aging, elder abuse prevention, and culturally responsive services for seniors. As the manager of The Way In Network at Carya, she leads collaborative efforts to support vulnerable and isolated older adults in Calgary. Her work has improved access to wraparound services, helping seniors age with dignity.

A recognized researcher and speaker, Dr. Joudi has developed educational tools to address elder abuse in ethnocultural communities and advances this work through applied research and community partnerships. She serves on the boards of the Alberta Association on Gerontology and Alberta Council on Aging, and advises government.

Her leadership is marked by compassion, cultural humility, and a commitment to age-friendly policy. Dr. Joudi is a key contributor to Alberta's seniors-serving sector.

### **Jenny Laderoute, Gift Lake**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake*

Jenny Laderoute has volunteered over 25 years, focusing on cultural preservation,

intergenerational education, and elder engagement in the Gift Lake Métis Settlement.

Jenny is a passionate advocate for Cree language revitalization. She regularly visits schools to raise awareness about residential schools, indigenous history, and to share traditional teachings. She also helps organize gatherings that promote social inclusion, such as the Elder Photo Project, which creates spaces for elders to connect and take part in cultural activities. Jenny extends her impact online by sharing Cree language content to reach a broader audience.

Jenny has served on several boards, including the Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped Appeal Panel, the Health Board, and Persons with Developmental Disabilities Board, where she champions the wellbeing of seniors and vulnerable individuals. She is currently planning community meetings with elders to develop a Cree language program. Jenny's quiet leadership, cultural dedication, and deep respect for elders continue to inspire positive change and lasting community impact.

### **Maurice Laliberte, Nampa**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River*

Maurice Laliberte, through volunteer contributions, has enhanced the lives of seniors and the broader community in Northern Sunrise County. In 2022, he led the transformation of the unused Nampa Curling Rink into a vibrant and accessible sport court facility. Understanding the needs of older players, he prioritized safety by helping design and install protective netting and co-leading the installation of a new court floor. This created a space for physical activity, social engagement, and community spirit.

As a founding member of the Nampa Pickle Ball Group, Maurice has championed a senior-friendly sport, serving as a builder, advocate, coach, and player. Twice weekly, he organizes and teaches beginner pickleball lessons, encouraging older adults to stay active, learn new skills, and build connections. Maurice's passion, patience, reliability, and positive attitude have inspired



countless individuals to live healthier, more engaged lives.

### **Francoise Lavoie, St. Isidore**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Dan Williams, MLA for Peace River*

Francoise has dedicated over 30 years to improving the lives of Alberta's seniors through volunteerism, leadership, and advocacy. For over two decades, she provided crucial transportation as the seniors' van driver in St. Isidore, ensuring independence for many. She also initiated and supported a weekly meals program, fostering both nutrition and social connection.

Beyond these key services, Francoise has organized countless enriching events and maintained a welcoming and safe environment at the local seniors' apartments. As a long-standing board member on the Club du Bon Temps Seniors Committee, her commitment, compassion, and hands-on support have greatly impacted the community.

### **Lorey Marsden, Sundre**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Honourable Jason Nixon, MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

For over 20 years, Lorey has volunteered with Greenwood Neighbourhood Place, transforming the lives of seniors through support and advocacy in navigating government benefits and services. Lorey holds several roles at the organization, including Senior Specialist and Bookkeeper. She also supports fundraising and board activities. Lorey has contributed countless hours to programs like the income tax clinic, and the coordinated community response to elder abuse. Lorey's greatest strength is guiding seniors through the complex benefit systems while also advocating for simpler, more accessible services.

Lorey's expertise has made her a trusted resource, not just within her community, but across the province. She often goes beyond her official duties to help those in crisis, secure housing, food, and critical assistance. In one case, she helped a man transition from living in

his car to senior housing, even purchasing items for his new home.

Lorey's compassion and tenacity have been a lifeline for many seniors who might have fallen through the cracks. Combined with empathy, she is an invaluable resource to Sundre and beyond.

### **Norman McLeod, St. Albert**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Honourable Dale Nally, MLA for Morinville-St. Albert*

Norman McLeod has dedicated over twenty-five years to volunteer service, improving the lives of numerous individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and communities. A key figure in organizations like Inclusion Alberta, he has consistently championed advocacy and inclusion at both community and national levels. After retiring in 2001, Norman took his 35 years of experience in public service to the non-profit sector as a volunteer. Norman co-founded the Rotary Employment Partnership, helping create over 600 quality jobs for those with developmental disabilities across Alberta. Norman also held leadership roles in other community organizations, always emphasizing inclusion and self-determination.

Over a 35-year career as a public servant, Norman significantly shaped programs for individuals with developmental disabilities in Alberta. He played a key role in establishing the Persons with Developmental Disabilities program in the 1990s, which provides living, employment, and community services. He has always been a strong advocate for including individuals with developmental disabilities in service planning and ensuring their voices are heard. His long-standing commitment and years of volunteerism has improved the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and the broader community in Alberta.

### **Clay Olson, Lethbridge**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Rob Miyashiro, MLA for Lethbridge-West*

Clay Olsen is nominated for 26 years of dedication to the Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre.

Beginning as a volunteer in 1999, Clay has supported various programs, from Bingo to Pancake Breakfasts and Mother's Day Luncheons. For over a decade, he has ensured the smooth daily operations, consistently volunteering an average of five hours per day.

Beyond regular tasks, Clay was instrumental in the building committee overseeing renovations. His leadership extended to the Board of Directors for 21 years, including serving as President for three. Notably, Clay championed the establishment of the Go Friendly Shuttle Service, providing crucial transportation for seniors.

### **Erhard Pinno and Glenys Smith, Camrose**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Jackie Lovely, MLA For Camrose*

Erhard Pinno and Glenys Smith co-founded the Battle River Lending Place Society, a not-for-profit organization that provides mobility equipment to seniors throughout Camrose and surrounding counties. Modeled after the Lending Cupboard in Red Deer, their initiative offers free access to donated medical equipment, supported by volunteers and one office coordinator.

Through their efforts, the organization quickly became an essential community resource, expanding rapidly to meet growing demand. They secured funding, negotiated with Alberta Health Services, and gathered broad community support to ensure the program's sustainability.

Beyond this initiative, Erhard and Glenys also contribute to the Canadian Northern Society's Camrose Heritage Railway Station and Park and volunteer with Messiah Lutheran Church. Their commitment to service and ability to create impactful, community-driven programs has strengthened support for seniors and enhanced quality of life across the region.

### **Jay Pritchard, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Brooks Arcand-Paul, MLA for Edmonton-West Henday*

Since 2015, Jay Pritchard has contributed more than 2,100 recorded hours to the Westend

Seniors Activity Centre, where he has served as Board Member, vice president, and president. A former school superintendent and dedicated community builder, Jay has strengthened the center's governance, expanded its programs, and improved financial resilience. Under his guidance, the centre has grown substantially and now serves over 5,000 seniors province wide.

Jay helped establish the Operations and Facility Sustainability Fund, which supported the centre during the pandemic, and he championed initiatives like the Alberta Seniors Alliance that supports underserved seniors, and Canada's only fraud prevention website. His collaborative leadership has fostered a proactive, inclusive culture that ensures seniors remain informed, connected, and resilient. Jay supports seniors in his community through strategic leadership, committed service, and strong respect for Alberta's aging population.

### **Marlene Raasok, Airdrie**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Honourable Pete Guthrie, MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane*

Marlene Raasok is a lifelong advocate of healthy aging whose volunteer service spans over three decades. She has made significant contributions to senior well-being through direct service, system-level leadership, and policy innovation. As Board Chair of the Good Samaritan Society and a key figure with the Alberta Association on Gerontology, she has helped shape province-wide strategies focused on caregiver support, inclusive aging, and technology integration.

Her leadership has supported the creation of forums, summits, and collaborative networks that bring together community, government, and academic partners to advance aging care and policy.

Marlene also inspires a culture of philanthropy by leading fundraising efforts, engaging donors, and mentoring emerging leaders in the aging sector. Locally, Marlene continues to serve as a volunteer driver, mentor, and health innovation leader. Her ability to unite grassroots compassion with system-wide transformation has earned her widespread respect. Marlene exemplifies the

principles of lifelong service and collaborative leadership in Alberta's aging sector.

**Shamim and Salim Ramji, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards  
*Nagwan Al-Guneid, MLA for Calgary-Glenmore*

Shamim and Salim Ramji arrived in Canada in 1978 and have become pillars of their community, particularly through their care for seniors and marginalized individuals. Guided by humility, service, and resilience, and inspired by the vision of His Highness the Aga Khan IV, they embraced Canada by supporting others tirelessly, without seeking recognition.

From volunteering during their working years to delivering food and flowers during the pandemic, their consistent acts of compassion have touched many lives, providing not just practical help but also comfort, warmth, and a deep sense of belonging to those who might otherwise feel isolated. Their legacy of selfless service continues through their children, reflecting the lifelong values they instilled in them. Shamim and Salim's commitment to their community exemplifies how quiet dedication and heartfelt action can create a lasting impact.

**Kiran Randhawa, Chestermere**

Nominated for: Individual Award  
*Chantelle de Jonge, MLA for Cestermere-Strathmore*

Kiran Randhawa is a dedicated volunteer whose leadership has improved the lives of seniors in Chestermere and surrounding communities. As Founder and Director of Chestermere Seniors All Services, she addresses challenges faced by immigrant seniors, including language barriers, cultural isolation, and limited access to services.

Over the past eight years, she has expanded the organization to more than 200 multilingual members, offering translation, education, and social programs that promote independence and connection. Kiran has translated essential documents such as municipal bylaws, seniors' guides, and public health updates, ensuring equitable access to information.

She organizes workshops on elder abuse prevention, fraud awareness, digital literacy, and mental health, while also facilitating intergenerational activities that reduce isolation. Through collaborations with local nonprofits, schools, and government agencies, she strengthens community supports for seniors. Kiran's efforts demonstrate vision, cultural responsiveness, and a strong commitment to building inclusive communities.

**Bonnie Read, Lac Ste. Anne County**

Nominated for: Individual Award  
*Shane Getson, MLA for Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland*

For the past seven years, Bonnie Read has been a volunteer at Chateau Lac Ste Anne in Onoway, bringing joy, connection, and dignity to seniors through creativity and compassion. Each month, Bonnie leads a one-hour card-making class, arriving early to set up and staying after to socialize and ensure everyone feels included and valued. She donates all materials from her personal crafting collection and adapts activities for residents with limited motor skills.

Beyond her regular workshops, Bonnie creates personalized, handcrafted birthday cards for every resident—up to 52 per year—and assembles festive treat boxes for special occasions. Twice a month, she also volunteers for Saturday bingo nights. She continued to give her time even after a foot injury.

Bonnie's empathy is deeply rooted in her own experience as a senior, giving her unique insight into the isolation some residents face. Her commitment, humility, and kindness make her a cherished figure at the Chateau and a source of comfort and companionship for many.

**Sandra Robin, Cochrane**

Nominated for: Individual Award  
*Honourable Pete Guthrie, MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane*

For over two decades, Sandra Robin has been a central figure at Big Hill Lodge in Cochrane, dedicating both professional and personal time to improving the lives of seniors. She plans activities

that build community, offers emotional support, and ensures every resident feels valued.

During the pandemic, Sandra led safety measures and introduced creative programs that helped seniors stay connected and supported through isolation. Her proactive approach continues to prioritize health, dignity, and well-being.

In addition to her direct care work, Sandra has raised essential funds for facility upgrades, new equipment, and resident programs. Her advocacy has had a lasting positive impact on seniors and their families. Sandra's leadership, compassion, and dedication to senior care have made her a highly respected member of her community.

### **Judy Scanland, Sylvan Lake**

Nominated for: Alice Modin

*Honourable Devin Dreeshen, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

Since moving to Sylvan Lake in 1982, Judy Scanland has devoted herself to serving the community's children, families, and seniors. Her work reflects a lifelong commitment to kindness, inclusion, and service.

As a community volunteer, she supported seniors through intergenerational programs, mentored youth in senior-focused service projects, and co-founded the Sylvan Lake Babysitting Co-op to aid senior caregivers. Her efforts fostered connection and compassion across generations. Judy helped run a volunteer hair salon at the local lodge for nearly two decades, offering seniors grooming services, companionship and care. Her contributions are wide-ranging and include shoreline cleanups, senior visits, fire safety awareness, and skating programs for young children. She also delivered care packages to veterans and supported events like the Alberta Winter Games and Sylvan Lake's centennial. She has also helped maintain a community garden that supplies food to the food bank.

Since 2003, Judy has been an active member of the Sylvan Lake Sassy Sisters, organizing outings for women of all ages. She organized transportation for members, obtaining a community bus license to better support

participation. Judy's compassion, energy, and leadership continue to inspire all who know her.

### **Cindy Siewert, Camrose**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Jackie Lovely, MLA For Camrose*

Since 2023, Cindy has volunteered with Camrose and District Family and Community Support Services, logging over 155 hours. Her primary contribution has been through the Nav-CARE program, which supports seniors experiencing challenges related to aging. Cindy has worked with three seniors, consistently offering support beyond her formal volunteer responsibilities.

In addition to her work with Nav-CARE, Cindy has contributed more than 20 hours to the local Meals on Wheels program and recently began volunteering as a shopping buddy, helping seniors with groceries and errands. Her monthly contributions reflect a consistent and meaningful investment in time and care and demonstrate a willingness to adapt to the evolving needs of seniors allowing her to have a direct impact on improving quality of life and reducing isolation.

### **Andy Steuri, Banff**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Sarah Elmeligi, MLA for Banff-Kananaskis*

Since retiring as a chef in 2022, Andy has volunteered over 1,000 hours to lead the popular weekly community table lunch. Preparing more than 10,000 bowls of nutritious, homemade soup and inclusive, high-quality meals. His thoughtful attention to dietary needs, personal preferences, and seasonal ingredients has captured the hearts (and appetites) of many local seniors.

Andy also delivers meals to housebound seniors, oversees the volunteer kitchen crew, and prepares a special Christmas lunch each year. He now shares his recipes and mentors a new crew of volunteer chefs.

Since Andy joined the program, more senior men have started attending. His kind and gentle manner makes him a trusted and loved member of the community. Working with a small budget,



Andy has made the community table lunch into a valued social and health-focused service.

### **Ann Stewart, High Prairie**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Scott Sinclair, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake*

Ann Stewart has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the lives of rural seniors for over a decade. As a Councillor for Big Lakes County, Ann has served on multiple boards and committees and has successfully advanced policy and infrastructure that prioritize seniors' housing, healthcare access, social inclusion, and mental wellness. Her advocacy has directly supported local physician recruitment, improved housing availability, and enhanced community-based programming tailored to seniors.

Ann's efforts go beyond governance. She actively organizes events such as seniors' appreciation lunches and supports transportation and recreational programs so seniors remain connected and valued. Her ability to amplify seniors' voices at regional and municipal levels has created an inclusive, supportive environment for aging in place. With a legacy of service, collaboration, and compassion, Ann demonstrates a strong commitment to seniors.

### **Hal Strudwick, Camrose**

Nominated for: Individual and Alice Modin Awards

*Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose*

Hal Strudwick has been sharing his musical talents with seniors in independent living apartments, continuing care facilities, and adult day programs for more than thirty-five years. As a singer and guitarist, he regularly volunteers his music to enrich lives through songs and compassion.

His performances make residents and staff happy, connected, and comfortable. They often provide meaningful moments of engagement and remembering. Hal is known not only for his music, but also for his genuine caring nature – always ready to lend support when needed.

Throughout his years of volunteering, Hal has remained deeply committed to the well-being of others. During challenging times, including the pandemic, he continued to perform safely, ensuring residents could still experience the joy his music brings. Wherever he plays, smiles, laughter, and memories follow.

Hal's dedication, kindness, and enduring contributions have strengthened his community and made a lasting difference in the lives of countless seniors.

### **Keith Sumner, Lethbridge**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable Nathan Neudorf, MLA for Lethbridge-East*

Keith currently serves as President of the Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization, supporting seniors in Lethbridge and southern Alberta. Over the past decade, he has actively volunteered with numerous boards and organizations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Keith played a crucial role in guiding the organization through challenging times, prioritizing safety and ensuring staff and board members were prepared.

His advocacy extends to collaborations with groups like Healthy Aging Alberta and various age-friendly and social prescribing initiatives. He also represents the seniors' sector on the Board of Economic Development Lethbridge, promoting the inclusion of seniors' needs in regional planning. Keith also contributes to the community as a long-time member of BikeBridge, advocating for safer cycling infrastructure, and as a participant in the Lethbridge Rotary Dragon Boat Festival, highlighting his commitment to health and community engagement.

### **Allan Welke, Pincher Creek**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Chelsea Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod*

Allan Welke has served for nine years as a board director with the Good Samaritan Society in southern Alberta. He has held several leadership roles, including Chair of Finance and Risk Management Committee and past Chair of the



Governance Committee. His commitment to seniors is evident through his active participation in numerous fundraising activities and oversight of significant capital projects.

Beyond his board work, Allan is a dedicated advocate and volunteer for seniors. He has served as Treasurer of Trinity Lutheran Church for 23 years and has personal experience as a caregiver. He regularly participates in celebrations and recognition events across the Society's facilities, showing his appreciation for both the seniors and the staff. Allan's leadership has improved the lives and well-being of Pincher Creek seniors.

**Elizabeth Welton, Okotoks**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, MLA for Highwood*

Elizabeth Welton is a volunteer who has impacted the lives of seniors in Okotoks residential facilities. Elizabeth supports special events and provides one-on-one visits and outings for seniors. She demonstrates compassion by assisting with practical needs like laundry and quiet chats, offering a listening ear and heartfelt support during challenging life transitions.

At Tudor Manor, Elizabeth assists with bi-weekly ice cream socials, bringing warmth and a positive presence. Elizabeth also serves as a volunteer Director on the Board of Community Chaplain Service (Canada) Society, ensuring continued love and support for seniors in care facilities. Her warmth, caring nature, and genuine concern make her a cherished friend to many residents, consistently brightening the lives she impacts.

**Luanne Whitmarsh, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Court Ellingson, MLA for Calgary-Foothills*

Luanne Whitmarsh, former CEO of the Kerby Centre in Calgary for over 11 years, spearheaded initiatives that improved essential programs, services, and supports for thousands of seniors annually. As an example, Luanne secured provincial funding to create a senior-friendly gym at Kerby and celebrated with seniors as they achieved health milestones.

Luanne's leadership was marked by her ability to find innovative solutions to enhance the aging experience, always prioritizing the needs and well-being of older adults. Her compassion is clear in the countless stories of seniors she helped, from preventing emotional and financial collapse to rescuing those in vulnerable situations and alleviating loneliness.

Luanne has been a dedicated Registered Social Worker for over 20 years and has helped rebuild key relationships for seniors transitioning back to their communities. She co-chaired Calgary's Elder Abuse Strategy alongside Calgary Police and Carya, establishing a multi-disciplinary model to address elder abuse and support victims. She also led the formation of a provincial coalition of over 300 senior-serving agencies to align sector efforts and strengthen their collective voice.

Luanne's early-career advocacy resulted in provincial policy changes that gave aging individuals the right to opt out of mandatory day programs, advancing personal dignity and autonomy. Her efforts have consistently championed dignity, respect, accessibility, and a higher quality of life for Alberta's older adults.

**Amy Wycislik, Calgary**

Nominated for: Individual and Bridging Generations Awards

*Julia Hayter, MLA for Calgary-Edgemont*

Since December 2023, Amy Wycislik has volunteered over 750 hours at Cambridge Manor. A university student and founder of the EVREN Neurological Association, Amy launched a creative arts program for seniors—many living with Alzheimer's, stroke, or age-related neurological decline. Through bi-monthly workshops, she recruits, trains volunteers, and leads while sourcing supplies and crafting lesson plans focused on therapeutic engagement, sustainability, and intergenerational connection.

In July 2024, Amy deepened her involvement by volunteering three full days per week, taking on a leadership role in therapeutic recreation and delivering one-on-one interventions tailored to resident's unique needs. Her work bridges generations, reduces isolation, and promotes

dignity and joy. Her efforts not only enhance daily life at Cambridge Manor but foster lasting connections that uplift both seniors and young volunteers alike.

### **Trevor Young, Airdrie**

Nominated for: Individual Award

*Angela Pitt, MLA for Airdrie-East*

Trevor Young is the Housing Manager for Rocky View Foundation's Self-Contained Housing Program, overseeing the daily operations of four manors that provide safe, affordable housing to over 86 seniors. Along with maintaining high standards, Trevor distinguishes himself through his genuine care and respect. He fosters a sense of community, treating each manor as a home, not just a facility. His dedication enhances the quality of life for seniors, supporting their ability to age in place with dignity.

Trevor also organizes Christmas celebrations, coordinating meals, entertainment, and social activities that bring joy and social connection. His commitment resonates beyond the manors, with friends and families of residents recognizing his impact. Through a combination of operational excellence and heartfelt compassion, Trevor creates a supportive and enriching environment.

### **Organization Nominations**

Nonprofit, Business, Special Service Awards

*Listed alphabetically.*

### **Battle River Lending Place Society, Camrose**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Jackie Lovely, MLA For Camrose*

The Battle River Lending Place Society supports seniors in Camrose and surrounding counties by providing free access to mobility equipment. Based on the successful Lending Cupboard model in Red Deer, the organization collects, cleans, and distributes donated medical equipment at no cost to those in need.

Since its launch, the society quickly became an essential community resource, expanding its services to meet increasing demand. Through strong volunteer engagement and one office staff member, the organization ensures seniors and

caregivers receive timely assistance with mobility needs.

The Lending Place also fosters community participation by encouraging equipment donations and volunteer service, strengthening connections among residents. By improving access to essential health equipment, Battle River Lending Place Society enhances the independence, dignity, and well-being of seniors across the region.

### **Bow Cliff Seniors Centre, Calgary**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Janet Eremenko, MLA for Calgary-Currie*

For over 50 years, the Bow Cliff Seniors Centre has been a vibrant and welcoming hub for seniors in Calgary's Spruce Cliff community. They offer over 20 weekly engagement sessions, encompassing a diverse array of accessible programs like fitness, social gatherings, and affordable lunches, effectively combating isolation and fostering meaningful connections for over 1,000 "Super Members."

Innovative programs like the bi-weekly Conversation Café addressing mental well-being and dementia, and the inclusive "super membership" granting access to 13 other seniors centres, demonstrates their commitment to holistic support. Driven by dedicated staff and volunteers, and supported by community partnerships, Bow Cliff Seniors ensures equitable access and promotes an engaging environment where seniors of all backgrounds can connect, learn, and thrive, enriching the lives of individuals and strengthening the entire community.

### **The Brenda Strafford Foundation, Calgary**

Nominated For: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Demetrios Nicolaides, MLA for Calgary-Bow*

The Brenda Strafford Foundation is committed to improving the lives of Alberta's seniors through innovation and compassionate care. As a provincial and national voice in advancing aging care, the foundation's person-centered approach guides its extensive network of long-term care and wellness programs. Through its research and

innovation hub, it drives significant advancements in dementia care and technology integration for social and cognitive engagement.

The foundation promotes international collaboration and brings global best practices to Alberta and utilizes data-driven decision-making to continuously improve resident outcomes. As well, recognizing the crucial role of front-line staff, it pilots innovative technologies like NurseGPT to streamline documentation and enhance resident communication.

A strong culture of volunteerism and philanthropy further supports its senior-focused programs. The foundation's focus on creating better futures for seniors has improved resident experiences, increased staff satisfaction, and positioned Alberta as a leader in seniors' innovation.

### **Calgary Heritage Housing and Silvera for Seniors**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Lizette Tejada, MLA for Calgary-Klein*

Calgary Heritage Housing and Silvera for Seniors collaborated on a new online portal: YYC Seniors Housing. This initiative addresses a long-standing challenge by creating a single point of entry for seniors to join housing waitlists, reducing the burden on applicants and housing providers. The portal also brings together two other housing management bodies: Bethany Group and Onward Homes, allowing seniors to apply to over 60 subsidized properties with one application.

Funded by a grant from the United Way, the project improves quality of life for seniors by making the housing process simpler and more equitable. The software has a housing finder and the ability to upload digital forms, these tools, amongst others, reduce barriers and create real-time waitlists based on need.

Unison Calgary contributed by developing an online tutorial to guide seniors through the application. Several community agencies have also been trained to help applicants. As demand for housing grows, this portal offers a timely, effective solution and sets a standard for collaboration and digital transformation in senior services.

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

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo*

The Calgary Immigrant Women's Association is a recognized leader in providing culturally responsive, gender-specific settlement services to immigrant and refugee women and their families. In 2024, the organization directly supported over 1,500 immigrant seniors and reached thousands more through partnerships, provincial collaborations, and community-based outreach.

It addresses systemic barriers faced by immigrant seniors through various programs that foster inclusion, learning, and community connection. For example, the *Everyday English for Immigrant Seniors* program supports daily communication needs using real-life, accessible content in over 40 languages. The *Tech Connect* program builds digital confidence through hands-on technology training. The *Pursuit of Happiness for Immigrant Seniors* program promotes wellness and helps seniors overcome isolation and age with dignity.

The Calgary Immigrant Women's Association is also a founding partner of Healthy Aging Alberta Immigrant and Refugee Seniors Priority Group, leading province-wide knowledge sharing and collaboration. The outcomes of these programs are far reaching and truly impactful. Many seniors who once felt invisible are now confident community leaders and mentors. By embedding seniors' perspectives into the planning, implementation, and evaluation—and using a holistic, trauma-informed, client-centered approach—the organization has set a standard for culturally competent service delivery.

### **Canadian Zalmi Society, Calgary**

Nominated for: Nonprofit and Community

Philanthropy in Action Awards

*Parmmeet Singh Boparai, MLA for Calgary-Falconridge*

Since 2021, the Canadian Zalmi Society has supported seniors, particularly within Alberta's South Asian communities, through inclusive programs that promote independence, safety and well-being. The Society offers free digital and financial literacy workshops that empower seniors

to confidently navigate technology and online banking, along with fraud prevention education. Using virtual reality fitness programs, the Society has introduced an engaging method to promote physical and mental health among seniors.

Recognizing the challenge of social isolation, the Society facilitates group activities that foster meaningful community connections. Serving approximately 80 seniors annually, their programs are culturally sensitive and accessible, creating a welcoming environment for seniors to fully participate. The Canadian Zalmi Society's consistent, innovative, and community-driven efforts have made a positive impact on seniors' lives in Alberta.

### **Carya, Calgary**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo*

Carya is a Calgary-based non-profit organization with over a century of service and a strong reputation for innovation in supporting older adults. Its programs offer holistic, wraparound support that addresses the complex realities of aging—such as social isolation, mental health, financial insecurity, and cultural barriers.

Carya leads several collaborative initiatives including *The Way In Network*, *Older Adult Stabilization Crisis Outreach Team*, and the *In Place Social Prescribing Network*, which are regarded as models for coordinated senior care. The organization's commitment to inclusivity is reflected in projects like its ethno-cultural elder abuse awareness campaign, which co-developed trauma-informed and culturally relevant resources for diverse seniors.

Through counseling, wellness groups, system navigation, and community engagement, Carya serves thousands of older adults annually, prioritizing dignity, accessibility, and empowerment. Its work is rooted in research, shaped by seniors' voices, and delivered in partnership with grassroots and government agencies, positioning Carya as a leader in equitable aging support.

### **Claresholm and District Family and Community Support Services**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Chelsae Petrovic, MLA for Livingstone-Macleod*

Claresholm and District Family and Community Support Services provides innovative and outstanding supports to enhance seniors; quality of life, fostering inclusivity and self-efficacy. They have partnered with local organizations to provide affordable transportation for seniors, helping them to get to appointments and do errands. They also offer a variety of programs and supports including lunch and learns, food supports such as a Christmas Hamper program, exercise and fitness classes, and social opportunities. Their Community Volunteer Income Tax Program also ensures seniors have their taxes filed and are receiving financial benefits.

Responsible for establishing the Claresholm Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse Coalition, they secured a space for any senior needing immediate removal from an abusive situation. In 2025, they partnered with Vulcan to form the Southern Alberta Senior Protect Society, ensuring seniors experiencing elder abuse receive immediate comprehensive supports, providing awareness and education to help seniors access local resources.

Claresholm and District Family and Community Support Services is a pillar of their community with in-depth knowledge of the community's needs, assets and barriers. They approach every challenge with compassion, determination, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of seniors in the community. Their outstanding and innovative service to seniors in Claresholm and area.

### **Concerts in Care Alberta, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Marlin Schmidt, MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar*

The Health Arts Society of Alberta has increased arts accessibility for seniors across Alberta through its transformative *Concerts in Care* program. Since 2016, the organization has delivered more than 2,000 professional concerts directly to seniors in care homes, palliative



settings, and low-income housing—reaching over 18,000 seniors in 2024 alone. These performances foster emotional connection, joy, and dignity to seniors who are often isolated or unable to attend cultural events.

In 2024, the society expanded its reach by offering 25 free concerts in low-income seniors' housing, launching biweekly bedside music in palliative care at CapitalCare Norwood, and continuing inclusive public concerts in libraries. The organization also supports Alberta-based musicians across a range of genres and cultures and is governed by a board committed to sustainability and accountability. Through innovation, compassionate delivery, and strong partnerships, Health Arts Society of Alberta ensures that aging and disability are not barriers to the arts.

### **Cycling Without Age, Red Deer**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Adriana LaGrange, MLA for Red Deer-North*

Cycling Without Age Red Deer offers seniors meaningful social connection, physical activity, and a renewed sense of freedom through trishaw rides. Trained volunteer cyclists, called Pilots, pedal electric-assisted trishaws with seniors seated in the front, creating a safe and enjoyable outdoors experience.

Last year, over one hundred individuals from senior facilities, a local hospice, and the wider community took part in rides to experience the beauty of Red Deer. The organization's efforts have improved the well-being and community connection for numerous older adults.

### **Cypress View Foundation, Medicine Hat**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Premier Danielle Smith, MLA for Brooks-Medicine Hat*

Since 1960, Cypress View Foundation, has provided affordable housing where residents live with dignity, respect, and community connection. At the heart of the Foundation's innovative approach is the Life Enrichment Liaison and the Education, Advocacy, and Referral Services

program, which offer emotional and practical support for residents navigating life transitions, including access to community resources. The program includes valuable initiatives such as workshops and learning series, promoting resilience, wellness, and informed decision-making.

Residents enjoy a vibrant social life through the Residents Club, powered by over 60 volunteers, delivering inclusive and uplifting activities. Programs like Heartfelt Helpers foster peer support, connecting residents in meaningful ways. The resident-led Garden Club not only cultivates plants but also nurtures healing, empowering residents to find joy together. In collaboration with Medicine Hat College's social work program, the Foundation provides an enriching practicum experience for students, fostering intergenerational learning and culturally responsive care that benefits residents and future professionals.

Through advocacy efforts, Cypress View Foundation has also helped residents access vital city services, including affordable transit, enhancing quality of life and independence. Residents shared numerous stories of transformation and support, highlighting the Foundation's significant impact.

### **Filipino Retirees Association of Alberta, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Peggy Wright, MLA for Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview*

For over four decades, the Filipino Retiree's Association in Alberta has supported Filipino seniors in the Edmonton region and enriched communities through its compassion, dedication to cultural preservation, commitment to volunteerism, philanthropy, and innovation.

The association builds a strong sense of family, friendship, purpose, and belonging through a diverse range of programs and regular cultural events. These include birthday celebrations, educational seminars, and karaoke socials. Members express that the association keeps them active, connected, and makes aging feel joyful. It also offers important moral, spiritual, and



physical support, especially during challenging times like illness or bereavement.

Built on the spirit of "bayanihan" (community cooperation), the association's dedication to uplifting and nurturing its community is evident in its numerous initiatives and the deep sense of pride and belonging of its members.

### **Financial Concierge, Calgary**

Nominated for: Business Award

*Peter Singh, MLA for Calgary-East*

Founded by Jill Chambers, Financial Concierge helps older adults manage financial documents, pay bills, and access Power of Attorney and executor services. With expertise in nursing, healthcare, and finance, the team helps seniors age safely and independently at home.

Active in Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario, Financial Concierge offers in-person, personalized support that goes beyond paperwork. Their approach helps clients navigate health and legal systems, while building trust through long-term relationships. Their blog and online resources provide up-to-date guidance for clients and families.

The team is also committed to public education. They regularly present on topics such as cognitive decline, financial planning, seniors' rights, and advance care planning. These sessions, held at retirement residences and senior centres, are known for being informative, engaging, and approachable.

Financial Concierge is known to lead with compassion, professionalism, and innovation and for supporting clients in hardship.

### **FuseSocial, Fort McMurray**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Brian Jean, MLA for Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche*

FuseSocial is the coordinating organization for the *Tomorrow Project*, a partnership of nine agencies in the Wood Buffalo region working to improve life for seniors. FuseSocial's role reduces service overlap, improves efficiency, and

supports system level change in key service areas such as mental health and housing.

With guidance from FuseSocial, St. Aiden's Society and other partners secured long-term funding from United Way and are seeking further resources. The Tomorrow Project emphasizes seniors' wellness, through two main areas: Seniors Subsector Collective Impact Initiative and Ingenious Seniors Wellness Stream. These include new services such counseling, peer supporting groups, hoarding response, housing, transportation, social connection, cultural inclusion, and culturally based care. As well, programs such as the path card, passport to wellness, community breakfasts, and Men's Shed promote access, connection and overall wellness.

FuseSocial leads shared evaluation, financial planning and sustainability efforts to ensure lasting results. They demonstrate strong sector leadership by driving inclusive, measurable change and building a more connected, community-wide system of care for adults.

### **GeriActors Theatre Company, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Nonprofit and Bridging Generations Awards

*Heather Sweet, MLA for Edmonton-Manning*

GeriActors Theatre Company is a long-standing, Edmonton-based intergenerational theatre company that creatively bridges generations through collaborative storytelling and performance. Since 2000, GeriActors has empowered seniors to share their lived experiences through original theatrical productions while actively engaging high school and university students as co-creators and performers. Through its sustained partnerships with the University of Alberta, Concordia University, and formerly Jasper Place High School, GeriActors fosters meaningful intergenerational relationships grounded in respect, creativity, and mutual learning.

Their innovative model of creative aging supports mental well-being, combats social isolation, and challenges ageism, both on stage and in the community. Students and seniors alike report lasting benefits—from increased confidence, empathy, and communication skills to a stronger

sense of community. By showcasing authentic aging experiences and encouraging intergenerational dialogue, GeriActors inspires audiences and participants, making it an example of inclusion, volunteerism, and demonstrating the transformative potential of the arts.

### **The Good Samaritan Society, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Marlin Schmidt, MLA for Edmonton-Gold Bar*

The Good Samaritan Society, received three separate nominations, highlighting significant contributions to seniors' care in Alberta and British Columbia.

The society provides a continuum of care, including assisted living, long-term care, and community support programs, guided by Christian values and extending hospitality to all, regardless of background. As one of the largest voluntary care providers in the region, the Good Samaritan Society operates numerous facilities and programs, serving over 7,500 individuals.

The society emphasizes a resident-centered approach, focusing on creating a sense of belonging and providing excellent care. Specific programs include the CHOICE program which allows seniors with complex medical conditions to live at home with support from services, and dementia care programs that emphasize autonomy. The society is also focused on innovation, including a small-home model for their new West Village care home in Edmonton. The Good Samaritan's commitment to compassionate care and innovative service positions it as a leader in fostering dignity and quality of life for older adults.

### **Happy 50+ Association, Calgary**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Rebecca Schulz, MLA for Calgary-Shaw*

The Happy 50+ Association enhances the lives of seniors through advocacy, engagement, and diverse programming. Growing to over 800 members, they offer extensive programming, ranging from dance and Tai Chi to computer

classes. They also organize annual inclusive events like the Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration and Spring Festival Gala. By partnering with other organizations, they offer a variety of programs for seniors to maintain their health and wellness and reduce social isolation.

Happy 50+ actively engages in multicultural activities and visits nursing homes, fostering social connection and reducing isolation. These efforts improve the quality of life for countless older adults, ensuring they feel valued, supported, and empowered. The Happy 50+ Association demonstrates dedication to creating an inclusive and vibrant community for seniors.

### **The Lending Cupboard, Red Deer**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Adriana LaGrange, MLA for Red Deer-North*

The Lending Cupboard has served central Alberta since 2006. It improves quality of life by offering accessible, short-term medical equipment loans to people of all ages. It began with a small collection of medical equipment and has grown to manage over 15,000 pieces, lending approximately 1,500 items each month to individuals in need. These loans help individuals recover from illness, injury, or surgery.

Their mission is led by an Executive Director and a board of directors and supported by a dedicated team of full-and part-time staff, along with contributions of 100 volunteers. Their continued impact reflects a strong commitment to care and support across central Alberta.

### **Lethbridge Dopamine Boxing**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Grant Hunter, MLA for Taber-Warner*

Lethbridge Dopamine Boxing Club, founded by Chris Campbell, offers inclusive, adaptive boxing programs that support Alberta's seniors living with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. Founded to offer hope and health, the program provides a safe and welcoming space for seniors to improve physical fitness, balance, coordination, and mental health. Participants report increased confidence, mobility, and quality

of life, alongside reduced isolation and enhanced social connections. By keeping costs low and ensuring affordability, the program is accessible to those who need it most.

The volunteer-led programming stands out for its innovation, applying non-contact boxing principles adapted for older adults and those with neurological conditions. Workouts are accessible to all ability levels and rooted in evidence-based research supporting exercise as therapy. Beyond the physical benefits, Dopamine Boxing fosters a supportive community where seniors regain independence, improve mental well-being, and build strong social networks.

### **M&M Food Market, Sherwood Park**

Nominated for: Business Award

*Kyle Kasawski, MLA for Sherwood Park*

Since 2021, M&M Food Market in Sherwood Park has partnered with Sage Seniors Association to support the Seniors Safe House, a dedicated service in northern Alberta for older adults fleeing abuse. Led by owners Scott Gillespie and Dan O'Hara, the store began donating ready-to-heat meals to seniors in crisis for Thanksgiving in 2022. Motivated by the often-hidden issue of elder abuse, they have since provided over 1,800 meals, helping keep the Safe House freezer stocked with nutritious, dignified food.

During the holidays, M&M Food Market creates special week-long menus featuring comforting breakfasts, lunches, and festive dinners, recognizing the emotional impact of spending the holidays in a shelter. M&M Food Market's ongoing support reflects a strong commitment to respect, inclusion, and care, offering vulnerable seniors not only nourishment but also the reassurance that they are seen and valued.

### **Multigenerational Wellness Team - Carya, Calgary**

Nominated for: Bridging Generations Award

*Honourable Joe Ceci, MLA for Calgary-Buffalo*

Carya's Multigenerational Wellness team is an example of intergenerational innovation. Through thoughtfully designed events and programs, they create shared spaces where children, youth,

adults, and older adults come together in meaningful, reciprocal ways. These experiences emphasize common humanity—celebration, storytelling, and belonging—rather than age-based differences.

The team skillfully navigates varying needs, mobility levels, and cultural expectations, ensuring inclusivity and dignity across all participants. From wellness circles to seasonal celebrations, their work fosters empathy, uplifts elders, and strengthens family and community bonds. Grounded in trauma-informed practice, developmental expertise, and aging knowledge, the team fosters a sense of shared purpose and joy that bridges generations and enriches community life.

### **Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre, Lethbridge**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Nathan Neudorf, MLA for Lethbridge-East*

Nord-Bridge Seniors Centre is a well-established, respected nonprofit that has served older adults in Lethbridge for decades. Fondly called "The Friendly Centre," it fosters independence, community pride, and well-being through a comprehensive suite of programs.

Nord-Bridge provides a senior shuttle service, affordable on-site Dunford Diner, and diverse health, fitness, educational, and arts programming. Its holistic approach includes in-house services—counseling, tax assistance, outreach, and government referrals—addressing the emotional, financial, and practical needs of seniors. Volunteerism is deeply embedded in its model, with members themselves running activities and events, which cultivates purpose and belonging. The Centre's consistent advocacy, partnerships, and fundraising efforts strengthen its long-term sustainability and amplify its impact. Through its breadth of services, Nord-Bridge continues to be a source of support, connection, and empowerment for Alberta's seniors.

**Rocky View Foundation, Airdrie**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Angela Pitt, MLA for Airdrie-East*

Rocky View Foundation has served Alberta seniors for over 65 years. It offers affordable housing, supportive living, and rent assistance to low-income seniors across Rocky View County.

Through the Rental Assistance Benefit program, seniors have been able to remain in their homes. Others, facing housing insecurity, have found safe, supportive homes in lodges operated by the Foundation – places where they can thrive with access to care, music, and community.

The foundation uses modern tech tools like Buildium to enhance services and give seniors more control over their living spaces. New programs include a streamlined digital application and Makers' Shop, which supports creativity, mentorship, and intergenerational connection.

Residents are supported through wellness activities, transportation for outings, and events that build connection and joy. Staff are compassionate and highly trained. Volunteers, including seniors themselves, help lead activities and welcome others. All combined, Rocky View Foundation's programs promote dignity and connection for seniors.

**Seniors for Kids Society, Cochrane**

Nominated for: Nonprofit and Bridging Generations Awards

*Honourable Pete Guthrie, MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane*

Seniors for Kids Society is a grassroots nonprofit serving Cochrane and area for 28 years. Its successful intergenerational "Grandparent Program" began when a newcomer mother sought support for her children who were missing their grandparents. Today, more than 100 senior volunteers mentor more than 145 children through weekly programs across 14 locations. These one-on-one relationships, lasting up to two school years, build trust, support, and mutual respect between seniors and youth from elementary to high school. Activities include crafts, games, baking, and tech lessons. The program reduces social isolation and improves

mental well-being for seniors, while children gain confidence, self-esteem, and caring.

The organization also hosts community events like dinners and coffee socials. Many volunteers stay involved for years, some for over a decade. One founding member remained active for 27 years. Foster parents and school staff consistently praise the program's positive impact. Some youths have honoured their mentors at events to express their gratitude. Seniors Society for Kids brings generations together, strengthens individuals, families and community bonds.

**Strathmore Meals on Wheels**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Chantelle de Jonge, MLA for Chestermere-Strathmore*

For decades, Strathmore Meals on Wheels has been a key service provider for seniors living independently in Strathmore and area. Entirely volunteer-run, the organization delivers hot, nutritious meals tailored to meet seniors' dietary needs, supporting both physical health and emotional well-being. By enabling seniors to remain longer in their homes, Strathmore Meals on Wheels helps reduce isolation, promotes dignity, and provides peace of mind for families concerned about their loved ones.

In addition to daily meal delivery, the organization fosters a sense of connection and community. Volunteers not only deliver meals but also provide a social touchpoint, helping to combat loneliness. Meals are prepared at the local hospital, ensuring quality and safety, and despite recent cost increases, Strathmore Meals on Wheels has maintained its commitment to accessibility by subsidizing meal costs through community donations. For nearly 40 years, the organization's work has been sustained and strengthened by dedicated volunteers whose support continues to make a meaningful difference.



**Sylvan Lake Seniors Association**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Devin Dreeshen, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake*

The Sylvan Lake Senior's Centre offers a welcoming environment for seniors in Sylvan Lake and area, providing social connection and engaging activities. Through a diverse program of weekly lunches, games, crafts, and special events, the centre combats isolation and fosters lasting relationships.

Supported by dedicated volunteers and with minimal fees, the centre ensures accessibility and promotes well-being for its 406 members. Since 1966, the centre has supported those navigating life transitions.

**Taber Meals on Wheels, Taber**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Grant Hunter, MLA for Taber-Warner*

Since 2020, the Taber and District Housing Foundation has operated the Taber Meals on Wheels program, ensuring seniors continue to receive essential meal services after it transitioned from hospital oversight. To date, the program has delivered over 26,800 nutritious, home-style meals, each including soup, salad, an entrée, and dessert.

The program relies on strong community support, with over 200 volunteers from 18 groups delivering meals on weekdays. Recognizing the financial challenges many seniors face, meals are offered at a subsidized rate for low-income clients – made possible by ongoing fundraising efforts by local individuals, businesses, and organizations. More than just meals, Taber Meals on Wheels provides vital social connection, dignity, and care, significantly improving the quality of life for seniors in the region.

**Tofield Golden Club**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Jackie Lovely, MLA for Camrose*

The Tofield Golden Club is dedicated to enhancing the social, mental, and physical well-being of older adults. Established in 1974, but

recently near the brink of closure, it has experienced a remarkable revival under the leadership of Jim Robichaud and the executive team. With 34 active committees and 155 members, it has achieved major milestones, including property acquisition and renovations to its existing seniors' centre.

The Club offers diverse activities such as tabletop games, curling, pickleball, crafts, needlework, and a daily drop-in coffee hour promoting connection and wellness. A recent addition is a replica Model T electric vehicle, offering free transportation.

Looking ahead, the "Tofield of Dreams" project – developed in collaboration with the town, county, and community – aims to expand the centre to include a gymnasium and multi-purpose spaces for intergenerational programming, workshops and larger community events. The Club is thriving and continues to play a vital role in enriching the lives of older adults and community ties.

**Volunteer Airdrie Society**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Angela Pitt, MLA for Airdrie-East*

Volunteer Airdrie supports seniors and individuals with disabilities in Airdrie and Rocky View County. Through various community partnerships and over 1,500 volunteers, the organization fills service gaps to help older adults age in place.

Core programs include transportation to medical appointments, household help such as grocery shopping and minor repairs, seasonal yard care, and moving assistance for low-income seniors. In 2024, Volunteer Airdrie completed 23 senior relocations at no cost beyond truck rental fees.

Volunteer Airdrie also promotes social connection through friendly phone call programs and community events, including an annual festival and Seniors Week celebrations. A growing youth volunteer program fosters intergenerational support, with youth regularly visiting local retirement homes.

Volunteer Airdrie's hands-on approach, community focus, and commitment to dignity and independence make it a vital resource for the region's aging population.



### **Windsor Park Community League, Edmonton**

Nominated for: Nonprofit Award

*Honourable Lori Sigurdson, MLA for Edmonton-Riverview*

For decades, the Windsor Park Community League has quietly supported older adults in the neighborhood, creating a welcoming space where seniors stay active, connected and involved. Run almost entirely by volunteers, including many seniors, the League hosts seasonal parties, wellness workshops, and community meetups, while encouraging neighbours to check on older residents. Seniors both participate in and help organize activities, creating a cycle of support.

The League's efforts include snow shoveling, securing grants to keep programs free or low-cost and promoting inclusion. They also lead green projects like community gardening, advocate for safer sidewalks and better lighting, and share helpful health and safety information through newsletters and social media. From hosting events to checking in during extreme weather, the League is a great example of community care.

### **Wing Kei Care Centres, Calgary**

Nominated for: Nonprofit and Community

Philanthropy in Action Awards

*Honourable Kathleen Ganley, MLA for Calgary-Mountain View*

Wing Kei Care Centres provide culturally responsive, person-centered care for seniors in Calgary. Operating multiple continuing care facilities and an adult day program, Wing Kei offers a safe, home-like environment where seniors are treated with dignity and respect by a dedicated team of volunteers. Wing Kei emphasizes independence, meaningful engagement, and collaboration with families.

In 2024, Wing Kei launched two notable initiatives: the Adult Overnight Program offers caregivers respite, and the Palliative and End-of-Life Care Conversations Toolkit helps staff and families navigate sensitive conversations. These programs have been shared across various health systems. Wing Kei has received "Exemplary Standing" from Accreditation Canada

since 2013 and consistently meets or exceeds care standards. A new facility, Wing Kei Village, will open in 2026 and will add space for 180 seniors, including hospice care.

Wing Kei's work is supported by a strong base of community donations and volunteers. A long-running annual Walk for Wing Kei, brings together hundreds of participants each year, raising substantial funds for ongoing services. Recent major gifts from donors and foundations further reflect the trust and generosity of the community. With its commitment to compassionate care, innovation, philanthropy and meaningful engagement, Wing Kei continues to be a leader in supporting seniors building connection across generations.