



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL



November 7th, 2019

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
3rd Floor, Legislature Building
100800 – 97 Avenue N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Premier Kenney,

I am writing on behalf of the 9,500 women in Alberta Mackenzie who are members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada to express our concern and disappointment in the decision of your government to disband the Office of the Seniors Advocate that has existed since September 1, 2016. We understand that a transition plan is in place for the office to fall under the Ministry of Health that will ensure the continuity of information and referral services for seniors and organizations that will be completed by the end of December 2019.

We had petitioned the previous government to amend the Alberta Health Act to ensure that the Seniors Advocate is an officer of the Legislature and therefore independent, *similar* to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. We were pleased when the decision was made to establish a Seniors Advocate Office albeit not an independent one. The independent nature of the office, which requires the advocate to report directly to the legislature, protects as much as possible the dissolving of the office by new governments, which is now happening. Population demographics indicate that there will be an ever-increasing demand for 'seniors specific' services and it must be acknowledged that all seniors' issues are not health care issues.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has successfully provided a valuable service; the need for which will not diminish in the foreseeable future. We understand the need to be fiscally responsible but all levels of government must also exercise foresight and wisdom in discerning how to best provide services to all Albertans.

We leave our concerns with you in the hope that as your government moves forward with implementing changes that perhaps this is an area that requires further consideration. I invite you to contact me with any comments and questions you might have. We have written previously in the hope of setting up a brief meeting with you and/or members of your cabinet to discuss several areas of mutual interest and remain interested in that opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Look, President
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