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As MP for North Island – Powell River, I have heard from many seniors who are struggling to make ends meet. They face heartbreaking decisions about whether to pay for housing, food, heat, or medication. Many are falling through the cracks, with nowhere to go for support.

[Canada must do better for seniors](#). Too many seniors—especially single women—are living in poverty.

In my role as NDP critic for seniors I regularly push the government to properly address the needs of this financially vulnerable population. We need a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to ensure no one falls below a basic bar of dignity.

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## OAS

The Liberals increased the OAS benefit by 10% in 2022, but that was only for seniors aged 75 and older. One constituent reached out to me to tell me how distressed she was that her neighbour's OAS was being increased by about \$200 a month, while hers was not because she is not yet 75.

Poverty does not discriminate based on age. Seniors aged 65 to 74 are becoming increasingly financially insecure, yet the government focuses only on the needs of those 75 years and older.

[I have confronted this government for failing to take action to lift all seniors out of poverty.](#) In January 2023, I [moved a motion to apply equal OAS payments to all seniors regardless of age.](#)

Sadly, the government has continued to ignore the needs of seniors in Canada by [voting against](#) my motion, allowing many seniors to continue living below the

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poverty line. The NDP and I will continue fighting for Canadians under the age of 75 to receive the financial support they need to help them meet the high costs of living.



Chatting with Seniors at Gerry Gray Place in Powell River

## Dental care

I am pleased that the Liberals have finally offered dental care for seniors, but [they have only done so after tireless advocacy by the NDP](#). For too long, seniors have been struggling to pay for dental care – and often going without. We pushed for dental care for seniors, only to have the Liberals vote against it. It's about time seniors got access to the care they need, but I'm frustrated that it took longer than it should have. In the meantime, seniors suffered unnecessarily because they could not afford the costs.



Everyone deserves to live above the basic bar of dignity. I will not stop pushing to ensure Canada's seniors get the respect and support they deserve.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rachel Blaney in blue ink.

Rachel Blaney, MP  
North Island - Powell River





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