



As MP for North Island – Powell River and NDP critic for Seniors, I have the privilege of advocating for the people in this riding and across Canada. I have heard from many elderly citizens who are concerned about the drastic increase in their cost of living and are deeply concerned about their ability to pay their bills.

New Democrats are committed to ensuring all Canadians receive the support and assistance they need during these financially unstable times.

2022 Review

In 2022, I was proud to introduce two motions on behalf of seniors. [Motion M-70](#) calls on the government to amend the *Old Age Security Act*. [Motion M-72](#) pushes the government to create a national strategy on aging that addresses healthcare, housing, and income security issues that seniors face.

Additionally, thanks to the efforts of the New Democrats, in April and May 2022, \$742 million was paid back by the federal government as a [one-time grant](#) to seniors who had lost their Guaranteed Income Supplement due to the CERB clawback. Also in 2022, the NDP was proud to successfully deliver \$500 to two million Canadians to help them pay their rent and alleviate at least some

of their financial stress.

When Canadians need help they have no better champion than a New Democrat.



What's coming in 2023

In 2023, I'm focused on fighting for seniors who are hit incredibly hard by the increased cost of living and greedflation (corporate price gouging). It is my goal to ensure all seniors have access to the financial support and affordable

housing they need to at least meet the bar of dignity, and not spend their senior years worried about their ability to pay their bills.



Dental care for seniors

My office received an overwhelming response from seniors and families alike about how dental care would help them. Having successfully pushed for dental care for children, New Democrats are focused on holding the

government accountable for providing dental care for seniors and people with disabilities. As per the NDP-Liberal Confidence and Supply Agreement (CASA), legislation must be tabled by the end of 2023.



Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)

The GIS is a benefit for working seniors who are financially vulnerable. Currently, 2.2 million Canadians receive the GIS. The benefit must be raised to, at minimum, meet the bar of dignity. Currently, too many

Canadian seniors live at or below the bar of dignity, below poverty levels, and face extreme financial pressures. The lowest income elders among us are

suffering the most. Increasing the GIS to at least keep seniors above that bar would improve their quality of life.

Old Age Security (OAS)

The NDP is also fighting for all seniors to receive an increase to their OAS. In July 2022, seniors aged 75 and older received a 10% increase to their OAS, but all seniors face a higher cost of living and greedflation. We need to ensure every senior in Canada has the financial support they need.

Revise taxation policies for single seniors

Seniors who are single face unfair tax laws that favour married couples, despite the fact that the population of single senior women is increasing. I am pressing the Liberals to review taxation policies to ensure they are more equitable for seniors who are single.

Seniors' housing

In addition to being financially vulnerable, too many seniors are housing vulnerable. This year, I will push the government to provide more support to municipalities and non-profit organizations to focus on housing for seniors, especially in rural and remote regions where there are few options for seniors, who are forced to age out of place.

You can still sign my petitions calling on the government to take action to protect seniors by visiting the [petitions page on my website](#).



Please visit my [webpage for seniors](#) to learn more about my work in Parliament.

Contact me

Thank you for your continued support! I want to hear about what matters to you. Please send me your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions for my work as NDP seniors critic by email to rachel.blaney@parl.gc.ca

Sincerely,



Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island - Powell River
