

Trends in Ageing

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In the year 2000, approximately 1 out of every 8 people in Canada was aged 65 and older. By 2026, these numbers change to 1 out of every 5. Somewhere around 2016, a phenomenon will occur that is unprecedented. Canada will have far more seniors than children age 14 and under. Seniors continue to shatter our past statistics with the fact close to two-thirds of all the people that have *ever* reached the age of 65 are alive today.¹ What do all these numbers have to do with our every day life in Canada?

While the senior population is growing, especially those over eighty, the portion of those that will choose to retire appears to be changing. In 2011, the first Canadian baby boomers will hit the magical age of 65 but rather than abruptly leaving the workforce, many will choose a phased in retirement. Many will incorporate work with leisure into an active lifestyle well into their seventies and eighties. This is not only going to prove a positive situation for them, but is going to help bridge the labour gap that we may experience, if we were to lose this group of experienced and talented folks all at once.²

Of course, the rising senior population brings the question of meeting higher demands with regards to elder care. As diverse and eclectic as this group is, so must be our solutions to providing real and valuable care options. Those in government have already admitted that we should not rely on our medical or old age security systems to take care of us. This is certainly true if we want any kind of choice as to where and how we will live. The concept of “ageing in place” is strongly favoured by seniors wanting to enjoy the comfort and privacy of their own homes for as long as possible.³ There is a growing abundance of equipment and services available to enable seniors a relatively independent and self reliant lifestyle, in their own homes, well into their later years.

In the next article, we discuss “The Sandwich Generation” and how this term illustrates people who find themselves caring for their children and their ageing parents or elders at the same time.

¹ Certified Senior Advisor Canadian Study Book Self-Study and Fast Start, Page 11

² Compilation of sources including Statistics Canada, CSA Study Guides and Revenue Canada

³ Certified Senior Advisor Canadian Study Book Self-Study and Fast Start, Page121