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# 50+ Newsletter



November 2024 • Issue 11

New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

www.nbscf.ca 

## Important Message Shared for the 2024 Provincial Elections

As the 2024 provincial election approached, The New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation raised several key issues that directly impact the quality of life for seniors in our province. The Board of Directors has shared a letter with many election candidates, advocating for these priorities under the principle that “prevention is better than cure.” Now that the election has passed, we intend to share this again with all elected MLAs.

For 56 years, the NBSCF has represented seniors across New Brunswick as a bilingual organization. We remain independent, without government subsidies, funded entirely by membership card sales and our weekly lottery. We encourage future MLAs to consider the following key issues for the well-being of seniors:

**Free Shingles Vaccine for Seniors-** Providing the shingles vaccine at no cost to seniors can prevent suffering and reduce healthcare costs associated with long-term care.

**Affordable Diabetic Supplies-** Many seniors struggle to afford necessary diabetic supplies, leading to worsening health. Ensuring access to affordable supplies would help prevent severe health complications.

**Prioritize Access to Medication (like Ozempic)-** Recent shortages of Ozempic, used to manage diabetes, have affected seniors. We urge prioritizing access for those with medical needs and ensuring that life-saving medications are covered for all citizens. We are deeply saddened by stories such as that of a lady in Nova Scotia, who feels forced to consider a Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) procedure due to the lack of coverage for her essential medication. No one should ever face such heartbreaking choices because they cannot afford their prescriptions.

**Improved Home Care and Hospital Support-** Increasing investment in home and hospital care, including well-trained professionals, will help seniors age with dignity and reduce

healthcare strain.

**Reduced Emergency Room Wait Times-** Seniors often endure long emergency room waits. Implementing a triage system that prioritizes seniors would provide faster access to care.

**Free Eye Exams for Seniors-** Free eye exams can help prevent falls due to poor vision, improving safety and reducing hospital admissions.

**Construction of More Nursing and Special Care Homes-** There is a growing demand for nursing and special care homes. Expanding these facilities would provide safe, dignified living arrangements for seniors.

We hope this message will bring attention to these critical concerns, and we look forward to hearing how our elected MLAs plan to address them. Once the new Cabinet has been set, we will seek meetings with the appropriate Ministers, including Health, Social Development and those Responsible for Seniors).

# Elderdog is there for you and your beloved dog!

If you have a dog, you know it's an important member of the family. For seniors, their dog is a life companion. Elderdog is here to help seniors with dogs enjoy this special bond for as long as possible. Elderdog Canada Inc. is a national community-based charity headquartered in Nova Scotia.

In New Brunswick, Elderdog has chapters in Fredericton, Saint John and Moncton. The Moncton chapter serves Greater Moncton, Salisbury, Shediac and Memramcook. All our services are provided free of charge, thanks to the generosity of the public.

For people with limited mobility, our volunteers can walk the dog, help with bathing, fetching food, brushing, cleaning teeth and accompanying the dog to veterinary appointments.

For older dogs who have lost their owners, Elderdog provides care and

a new foster family. We cover all food and veterinary expenses, as well as dental care.

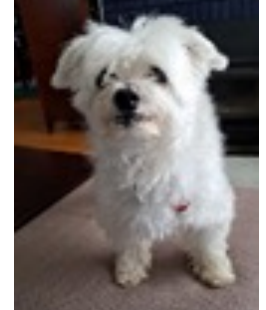
To become a volunteer, all you need is a love of dogs and the ability to give a little of your time. We're looking for volunteers to walk dogs, or to join our executive committee and help organize activities or place dogs in foster or adoptive homes.



Shediac resident golden retriever Wilson recently found three volunteers to take him for walks and playtime at the beach.

We also found a lovely forever

home for charming Nick, a 10-year-old Maltese whose owner passed away a few months ago.



If you're a senior who needs help caring for your dog, or if you'd like to volunteer with seniors and their dogs in your community, please contact us at [info@elderdog.ca](mailto:info@elderdog.ca), 1-855-336-4226 or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/elderdogmoncton/>.



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