

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

## **National Institute on Ageing Names Adrienne Clarkson as New Honorary Chair of Advisory Board**

**TORONTO, Sept. 29, 2022** — The National Institute on Ageing is pleased to announce that the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, the 26th Governor General of Canada, will be the new Honorary Chair of the NIA. In this role at the helm of the NIA Advisory Board, Madame Clarkson will provide valuable counsel, advice and direction to support the NIA’s mission to improve the health, well-being and financial security of older Canadians. She will officially take the position on Oct. 1, the **UN International Day of Older Persons**.

“The reason why I want to work with the National Institute on Ageing is that I want to make sure that people have as much opportunity, as they age, to do as much as they want to do, and that they're not held back because of not being able to access health care or not having enough resources,” she said.

Madame Clarkson, 83, said she aims to bring to the role a focus on equity in ageing, especially as it applies to women, immigrants and other marginalized groups, and to harness the untapped potential of older Canadians to contribute meaningfully to public life.

“I want to help us all rethink the way we look at ageing, and the way we look at the years that are supposed to be ‘non-productive’ after retirement,” she said.

Madame Clarkson succeeds the late Bill Davis, former Premier of Ontario, as Honorary Chair.

“We are honoured and thrilled that Madame Clarkson has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the NIA,” said NIA Executive Director Alyssa Brierley. “With her lifetime of public service and her deep commitment to the values of equity and inclusion, we can’t think of anyone better for the role.”

Adrienne Clarkson was Governor General of Canada from Oct. 7, 1999, to Sept. 27, 2005. Born in Hong Kong, she came to Canada as a refugee with her family in 1942. She received her early education in the Ottawa public school system and later obtained an Honours B.A. from Trinity College and an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Toronto. She also did post-graduate work at the Sorbonne in France, becoming fluently bilingual.

A Companion of the Order of Canada, Madame Clarkson has had a distinguished career in broadcasting, journalism, the arts and the public service. She had a ground-breaking career in journalism with the CBC,

spanning more than three decades, and has been awarded 28 Honorary Degrees from universities in Canada and Europe. On leaving Rideau Hall 17 years ago, she co-founded the **Institute for Canadian Citizenship**, which aims to help new citizens to feel involved and included in Canadian life.

Madame Clarkson is the bestselling author of the 2014 **CBC Massey Lectures'** *Belonging: The Paradox of Citizenship*; *Room for All of Us: Surprising Stories of Loss and Transformation*; *Heart Matters: A Memoir*; and the biography *Extraordinary Canadians: Norman Bethune*.

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### ***About The National Institute on Ageing***

The [National Institute on Ageing](#) is a think tank at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University) focused on the realities of Canada's ageing population. Follow us on Twitter [@NIAgeing](#) and support our call for a National Seniors Strategy [@NSS Now](#).

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