

The Unveiling of the New Canadian Dental Care Plan

A long-awaited win for older Canadians

TORONTO, December 21 — Today, the National Institute on Ageing released the following statement.

“The federal government’s announcement of the highly anticipated Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is welcomed and celebrated by the National Institute on Ageing (NIA).


The NIA, together with our partners, have long been advocating for the federal government to promote wellness, prevention and chronic disease management to better enable healthy ageing and independence for older Canadians. By fully or partially covering the essential dental care costs for older Canadians without dental insurance and a household income of less than \$90,000, most older Canadians will be able to receive the oral health care they need and deserve.

Oral health and overall health go hand-in-hand. Poor oral health can contribute to cardiovascular disease and pneumonia, while conditions such as diabetes, osteoporosis and Alzheimer’s disease which are more prevalent in older adults, can worsen an older person’s oral health. We are pleased to see that the federal government has prioritized the unique health challenges of older adults with the unveiling of this new Program.

This historic announcement is an important first step to ease the financial barriers that have prevented too many older Canadians from effectively managing their oral health needs. In order to prioritize the enrollment of older Canadians, applications have first opened over the phone to eligible Canadians aged 87 and older. In January 2024, older Canadians aged 77 to 86 can apply, followed by those aged 72 to 76 in February, and then those aged 70 to 71 in March. Older Canadians aged 65 to 69 can apply in May 2024 — when it is anticipated that the Program will switch from telephone to online.

The new Canadian Dental Care Plan represents a much-needed improvement to the Canadian health care system and is a win for all lower-income and vulnerable older adults who have not had the means to prioritize their oral health until now.

The NIA will continue to work to improve the lives of older adults and the systems that support them, driving towards a Canada where older adults feel valued, included, supported, and better prepared to age with confidence.”

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[Subscribe here to stay informed about the rollout of the new Program.](#)






Resources:

[Canadian Dental Care Plan](#)

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The National Institute on Ageing (NIA), based at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU; formerly Ryerson University), is Canada's leading policy and research centre dedicated to enhancing successful and healthy ageing throughout people's lives. Through our collaborative approach, expert-driven analysis, and public-facing reports and tools, the NIA provides meaningful research, analysis, advice and advocacy on the most pressing issues that are affecting the health and wellbeing of older Canadians.

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