

CWL Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Independent Seniors' Advocate
Provincial Initiative

“Urge the Alberta Provincial Government to amend the Alberta Health Act to ensure that the Seniors' Advocate is an Officer of the Legislature and therefore independent”

The Need for a Independent Seniors' Advocate

- According to the Alberta government, there are 425,000 seniors in Alberta and population projections report that number will increase to 642,100 by 2021... so this segment of the population is growing, along with its unique needs
- Presently, MLA David Quest is the Associate Minister – Seniors and reports to the Minister of Health
- The present Alberta Seniors' Advocate Office is housed in The Office of the Health Advocates and the Seniors' Advocate is responsible to the Minister of Health
- Seniors have more concerns than health care... they also include housing, income support, seniors' services, non-personal health care trustee and guardian issues, transportation and senior abuse
- The present Alberta Seniors' Advocate is set up to help seniors and their caregivers navigate the *health care system*... the position does not advocate for other issues
- An independent Seniors' Advocate would serve seniors and not the government of the day by being accountable directly to the Legislature
- When government changes, the independent seniors' advocate would not necessarily change as it would be at arm's length from the government

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