

## **OACAO Supports Ontario Government's Announcement for Expansion of Seniors Active Living Centres Program**

### **Call for Applications Now Open for New SALC Programs**

**[Toronto, ON – July 17, 2024]** – The Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) applauds the Ontario government's recent announcement to expand the network of Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs). This expansion will significantly enhance the quality of life for seniors across the province by providing increased opportunities for social, cultural, and recreational engagement.

*"We enthusiastically support the government's initiative to expand the Seniors Active Living Centres,"* said Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director of OACAO. *"The call for proposals to establish new SALCs will ensure that more seniors can benefit from the invaluable services these centres provide, helping them stay healthy, active, and connected within their communities."*

The OACAO has steadfastly advocated for the growth of SALCs, recognizing their critical role in supporting the well-being of Ontario's aging population. With over 300 SALCs already delivering essential services, the need for further expansion is evident, particularly in underserved and rural areas.

*"We are especially delighted to see the focus on expanding SALCs and encourage the Ontario Government to focus on expansion in underserved areas such as Indigenous communities and small rural centres,"* added Hesjedahl. *"These areas have unique needs and challenges, and the establishment of more SALCs will provide much-needed support and opportunities for seniors living in these communities. The OACAO is committed to working with the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility to ensure the successful implementation of this expansion and to advocate for the necessary resources to support these vital centres."*

In our 2024 Pre-Budget Submission, we recommended a new Call for Applications to fund additional SALCs for 2024/25. We are pleased to see this recommendation being realized and look forward to the positive impact it will have on seniors across the province.

Additionally, the OACAO continues to advocate for increased operating dollars to fully support the growing needs of existing and new SALCs. **Adequate funding is crucial for these centres to provide the highest quality programs and services to Ontario's seniors.**

The OACAO encourages eligible organizations to apply for the new SALC funding and contribute to the health and well-being of Ontario's seniors. For more information on how to apply, please visit the Ontario government's website <https://forms.mgcs.gov.on.ca/en/dataset/on00711>  
Or: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1004835/ontario-expanding-seniors-active-living-centres>

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#### **About OACAO:**

The Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO) is a longstanding provincial association dedicated to strengthening Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs) and seniors-serving organizations across Ontario. Representing over 230 member organizations with a combined membership of over 200,000 seniors, OACAO is committed to enhancing the quality of life for older adults through advocacy, support, and the development of quality and relevant resources and services for community-based older adult centres.