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Gord Johns

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February 7, 2017

The Honourable Jane Philpott
Minister of Health
70 Colombine Driveway,
Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locatoin: 0906C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister,

The purpose of this letter is to forward the attached report to you on the findings of a community public consultation on seniors' health care in Courtenay-Alberni. This consultation took place in Qualicum Beach, which has the oldest median age of any postal code in Canada.

The objective of the consultation was to seek input from my constituents concerning the issues that should be addressed in a health care funding agreement between the federal government and British Columbia.

I was heartened—although not surprised--by the overwhelming interest by the community in this subject matter. Approximately 240 people attended this standing-room only meeting, which was organized in partnership with the Canadian Medical Association, local residents associations and community caregivers.

I would be grateful if you and your officials would give serious consideration to the findings of this consultation as you continue to engage in Health Accord negotiations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

Gord Johns, MP
Courtenay-Alberni

Enclosure

Seniors Health Care Town Hall Report
 Qualicum Beach, British Columbia
 November 7, 2016

Purpose

To identify the key messages by participants of the Seniors' Health Care town hall meeting in Qualicum Beach on November 7, 2016.

Background

In partnership with the Canadian Medical Association, MP Gord Johns convened a public meeting to seek input from his constituents in the riding of Courtenay-Alberni concerning the national health accord between the federal government and the provinces.

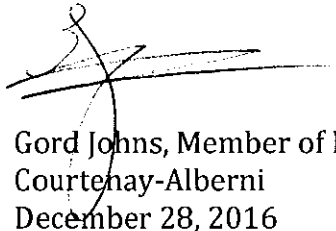
This public meeting took place in Qualicum Beach, whose population includes the oldest average age in the province. It was attended by 240 local residents and others who travelled from other towns and cities in the riding.

Findings

For ease of reference, the key issues raised by participants are organized in the table below.

Issue	Recommendation
Health care services have been developed to meet the needs of a younger population and haven't changed to address the needs of older citizens as the population has aged.	New and increased funding is required for seniors' health care.
Many older patients unable to afford needed medications.	System needs to ensure that all Canadians are able to afford prescription medications.
Long waiting lists in long-term care facilities; and, acute care beds occupied by seniors requiring long term care.	Increased investment required for long term care infrastructure.
Patients wanting to grow old in their own homes not getting sufficient support.	Home care programs must be expanded to effectively address chronic, acute and palliative needs of older adults.
Informal care givers (family members, friends, neighbours) are not compensated or supported in the provision of elder care.	Family councils should be required for all long-term care facilities; training support; and, tax relief should be given to informal care givers.
Health care resource allocation does not always reflect geographic areas of need.	Resources should be allocated to areas with highest populations of frail seniors.
Seniors health issues are often a result of social determinants that are not	Changes to the health care system, including multi-disciplinary teams,

addressed by a medical model of health care.	should recognize and address social and economic determinants of health.
Delivery models are fragmented.	Integrated multi-disciplinary care teams are needed in primary care settings.
	A national strategy for seniors' care is required and should include: parameters for quality care; addressing social determinants of health; health system integration; primary care; training of health care providers (including informal care givers); access to appropriate medication; home care and community support; acute and specialty care; long term care and assisted living; and, palliative care and end of life care and end of life decisions.
Accountability measures are lacking.	Funding should be conditional upon accountability framework that encourages innovation and system change and reports fully on health and social outcomes. Funding allocated to provinces for health care should not go to general revenue.
Dementia is a major issue for seniors in our communities.	A national dementia strategy should be developed and implemented.



Gord Johns, Member of Parliament
Courtenay-Alberni
December 28, 2016