

Waterloo Wellington Older Adult Strategy

COMMUNIQUE



03 April 2020

Dear partners, colleagues, community members and friends,

This short message is meant to briefly update you on the implementation activities of the Waterloo Wellington Older Adult Strategy (WWOAS).

We know that your focus, today as always, rests squarely on the health needs of our community, including older adults themselves, their families and their caregivers. And we understand that your organizational and service priorities have pivoted to best address pressing local needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is important for you to know that our work to implement the WWOAS continues to move forward and that we too have been shifting our priorities to best support emerging geriatric system- and service-level needs. We are fortunate that, over the past 18 months, the WWOAS has served as a catalyst to bring about new ways of working, stronger linkages and relationships and structures and processes to support better communication. Indeed, much of what has been achieved to date is very directly aligned with provincial and local health transformation agendas. So too, has it placed us all in a better position to respond in more coordinated and collaborative ways.

During these unprecedented times, we are targeting opportunities to best influence health policies, protocols, services and social supports that better support older adults at risk in our communities, especially those exposed to conditions that predispose vulnerability.

Please reach out if we can help in any way. We encourage you to call on us if you see opportunities or require support in brokering planning conversations and/or implementing immediate solutions in response to the evolving context within which you are living and working.

We all appreciate the steadfast dedication and expertise of all who are working on the front lines and those supporting them.

Take best care,

David Wormald and Karyn Lumsden, *Co-Chairs, WWOAS Steering Committee*

Jane McKinnon Wilson and Don Wildfong, *Waterloo Wellington Geriatric Systems Team*

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