



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2020

Unite and take action for older adults
Take measures to protect each other now

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: This week Saskatchewan surpassed Manitoba to have the second highest active COVID-19 cases per capita behind Alberta and double the national average. Despite the distribution of positive cases traversing across age groups, it is older adults who are experiencing the most tragic impacts of the community spread of the virus. In particular, death due to COVID-19 in long-term care facilities are rising at an alarming rate across the province. Within a two-day period, 92% of deaths occurred in Saskatchewan residents over the age of 80 years. Health care resources are overtaxed and Saskatchewan Health Authority senior officials are warning the public that the current rate of growth of cases is not sustainable. This has an impact on everyone in Saskatchewan, across all ages, regardless of health status.

The Saskatoon Council on Aging is a non-profit community based organization committed to promote dignity, health and independence of older adults through education, programs, services, and policy advocacy.

The Saskatoon Council on Aging endorses positive aging based on values of self-worth, awareness, combating ageism, and protecting those who are most vulnerable.

The Saskatoon Council on Aging, during this urgent time where the community needs to come together to protect each other advocates for the following measures:

- Denounce ageist comments, actions and thoughts that portray “It is ok if someone in their 80s dies, they are going to die soon anyway”. We all deserve to live, with dignity and respect, with the last years of one’s life just as valuable as any other years of life.
- Act together as a community to follow public health guidelines with zero tolerance for non-adherence.
- Take action now to prevent further spread that could further increase the rate of death and tragedy for older adults and their families
- Support our health care workers who work tirelessly to care for those who are vulnerable, sick and isolated often at high risk for their own health and safety
- Take COVID-19 seriously. It affects everyone. We are all at risk.
- Celebrate the coming of the vaccine and support the plans for prioritization as determined by the experts.

Together, we can prevent the rising death, hospitalizations and heartbreak affecting older adults and their loved ones. Please share our message widely.

-30-

Saskatoon Council on Aging Board of Directors

2020 COLLEGE DRIVE SASKATOON SK S7N 2W4

PH 306-652-2255 | FAX 306-652-7525

admin@scoa.ca | www.scoa.ca

Find us on Facebook – Saskatoon Council on Aging

Follow us on Twitter @scoa3