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NEWS RELEASE

The National Institute on Ageing Calls on Political Parties to Let Poor Older Adults Work

TORONTO, Thursday, April 10, 2025 — As Canadians head into the 2025 federal election, one major issue remains largely overlooked: financial security for low-income older adults. A new policy document from the National Institute on Ageing (NIA), **Let Poor Older Adults Work: Policy Recommendations for an Improved GIS**, calls on political leaders to act now to protect Canada's most vulnerable older adults.

The report, led by the National Institute on Ageing's Senior Fellow John Stapleton, proposes an urgent reform to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS): raising the annual earnings exemption to \$10,000 and indexing it to inflation. Currently, low-income older adults who work beyond a \$5,000 threshold face steep clawbacks, discouraging employment and worsening financial insecurity.

"With the cost of living soaring and more Canadians working later in life, we need policies that support — not penalize — low-income older adults who want to stay in the workforce," says Stapleton.

Canada's ageing population is growing rapidly, yet politicians have largely ignored the needs of older voters in this election cycle. By 2030, nearly a quarter of Canadians will be over 65.

"Older voters wield significant political influence, with turnout rates consistently higher than younger age groups. Political leaders should realize that older voters are only becoming a larger and stronger voting bloc," says report co-author and NIA Director of Policy Gabrielle Gallant.

Why This Matters in Election 2025

- **Older adults vote:** In the last election, nearly 75% of Canadians aged 65-74 cast a ballot. Yet, financial security for retirees remains an afterthought in most party platforms.
- **The current system is unfair:** Wealthier older adults who don't qualify for GIS can work without financial penalties, while low-income older adults face harsh clawbacks on even modest earnings.

- **A simple fix exists:** Raising the GIS exemption to \$10,000 would align it with the new Canada Disability Benefit and ensure that vulnerable older adults aren't unfairly penalized for working.

About The National Institute on Ageing

The National Institute on Ageing (NIA) improves the lives of older adults and the systems that support them by convening stakeholders, conducting research, advancing policy solutions and practice innovations, sharing information and shifting attitudes. Our vision is a Canada where older adults feel valued, included, supported, and better prepared to age with confidence.

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