ILC CANADA - BIANNUAL UPDATE to ILC GA
2017 - 2019

ILC Canada is partnered with the LIFE Research Institute, University of Ottawa who played a key role in the work described below.

RESEARCH

The key research project for ILC Canada is the Caregiving Project with the ILC GA. In July 2019, ILC Canada/LIFE Research Institute hosted a very productive research meeting to discuss the qualitative, quantitative and policy issues/questions for a proposed international study. Work is underway on the three segments and funding options are being explored.

With the LIFE Research Institute and Families Canada, ILC Canada is piloting (beginning September 2019) in 8 sites across Canada an intergenerational program matching at-risk children with newcomer seniors to Canada. Based on the Experience Corp Program in the US, we will be looking at the application of the method to study the impact of the adapted program on ageism and social isolation in older adults.

In May 2018, ILC Canada and the LIFE Research Institute hosted the 2nd Age-friendly Societies Forum "Towards a World Adapted for Older Adults: Maintaining Quality of Life". The Forum involved a unique gathering of academia, policy, business and civil society to inform a blueprint for an Age Friendly Society.

Four key areas were discussed at the Forum: age-friendly homes, age-friendly health care, age-friendly skies and age-friendly retail. There were several high level keynote speakers including the Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, (then) Minister of Seniors for Canada and Dr. Jean Accius, Vice President for Independent Living/Long-term Services and Supports, AARP. The Forum Report is available. Discussions have begun regarding potential work on dementia-friendly air travel, hospitals without walls and age-friendly homes.

ADVOCACY
Domestic:

Domestically, ILC Canada has been advocating for older Canadians in a number of ways. In 2019, we appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women to address the issues facing older women, including ageism, poverty, healthcare, housing and the positive impact on women of a potential UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons (UN CROP).

ILC Canada has been leading the Canadian movement to have the government support and lead a UN CROP. This includes advocacy at the UN Open-ended Working Group on Aging (table dropping a petition-letter to the Ministers of Global Affairs and Seniors), meeting with Ministers and Ministerial Staff and making speeches throughout the country to increase support for the UN CROP. This work culminated

in an announcement by the Government of Canada that it was "open" to supporting a UN CROP.

A great deal of background work led up to Canada's UN announcement, specifically, ILC Canada-LRI organized a working group comprised of experts in Aging and UN Conventions who developed a strategy to move the Canadian government forward. We built links with over 50 high level Canadian NGO's and aging experts who have signed on to working with us on advocating for a UN Convention. Work included recruiting partners in Canada and working towards a write in campaign and social media campaign.

ILC Canada representatives have spoken about the UN CROP at numerous events. Examples include a workshop at the Canadian Association of Gerontology in 2018; sessions with the Association des retraités et retraitées de l'éducation et des autres services publics du Québec (AREQ-CSQ), and at the International Psychogeriatric Association.

ILC Canada representatives also met with the Canadian Minister for Seniors, the Honourable Filomena Tassi, to discuss the UN CROP and other high priority issues for older Canadians.

Internationally
Internationally, as ILC Canada and UN (NY) Lead for ILC GA, Margaret Gillis has attended and advocated for older women at the UN Congress on the Status of Women in March 2019.

ILC Canada President, Margaret Gillis is now the Chair of the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older Persons, National Advocacy Working Group on the UN CROP. The working group is comprised of 50 Aging NGO groups/organizations.

As part of the ILC International Team, ILC Canada is the NGO member of the United Nations European Economic Commission (UNECE) working group to Mainstream Aging. This work is ongoing but to date involved writing a paper for the UNECE on tools and methods for age-sensitive policy and programing.

In 2018/2019 ILC Canada-ILC GA hosted two successful side event at the UN Open-ended Working Group on Aging. In 2018 we focused on a North-South discussion on long-term and palliative care and independence and autonomy, which illustrated the need for a Convention. In 2019 we cohosted a side event entitled Live-Well, Learn Well: an International Inter-sectoral Discussion of Income Security and Lifelong Learning.

ILC Canada-ILC GA also made numerous statements at the UN OEWG to advocate for the rights of older people on the issues of long-term and Palliative care, income – security and lifelong learning.

In 2018, ILC Canada prepared input for the Voluntary National Reviews at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), which focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals. Canada is one of the 47 countries preparing reports for the HLPF. ILC Canada focused on the need for a National Seniors Strategy, a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and support for pension programs.

POLICY
ILC Canada developed a Policy Brief – Election Platform for issues facing older Canadians for political parties in the Canadian Election (October 21, 2019). As a result ILC Canada met or discussed the policy proposals with 3 of the 4 major political parties. Issues covered in the election platform included: development of a National Seniors Strategy for Canada. Development and implementation of a robust integrated health, home and long-term care system. As well we asked for a commitment to a strong pension/income security program, and support of a UN CROP.

PUBLLICATIONS
Mainstreaming Aging: Work Package 3, Tools and Methods for Age-sensitive and Age Responsive Policy. ILC GA and ILC Canada (Margaret Gillis and Marielle Racette)