

# ONTARIO HELPING MORE SENIORS KEEP FIT, HEALTHY AND ACTIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITY **\$3.7 MILLION IN FUNDING**

The Ontario government is investing \$3.7 million in 316 existing Seniors Active Living Centre programs across the province.

The funding is the fourth and final quarterly installment payment for this fiscal year to help centres deliver in-person and virtual programs that help older adults aged 55 and older keep fit, healthy, active and socially connected to their communities.

"This year, we have increased our investment in Seniors Active Living Centres by almost one million dollars over last year, to provide seniors with more opportunities to access programs and supports," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "Our government continues to invest in Seniors Active Living Centre programs that are improving the health and well-being of Ontario's aging population."

The government's 2024 Fall Economic Statement increased base funding for all Seniors Active Living Centres for this coming year, from up to \$42,700 to up to \$55,000 to ensure centres have the support they need to continue providing seniors services and activities. The funding is provided to centres in four equal quarterly payments each year.

"Our government is making record investments to ensure more seniors are supported in our community for years to come," said Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon. "The Caledon Seniors Centre is a hub of our community and today's announcement is another step our government is taking to give seniors the opportunity to enjoy active living and a healthy lifestyle."

Due to the success of Seniors Active Living Centres (SALCs), the government is investing up to an additional \$17 million to expand the

number of SALCs by 100 across Ontario from 316 to 416 beginning in 2024-25. This will increase services for seniors and those with disabilities in underserved communities. A call for proposals was launched in July 2024 and the successful new SALC recipients will be announced starting in early 2025.

"The government's investment in adding up to 100

more Seniors Active Living Centre programs across Ontario, along with over a 28 per cent increase in base funding since 2023-24, demonstrates a significant commitment to supporting seniors in Ontario," said Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director, Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO). "This is an important step forward in addressing the growing demands on

SALCs. We're thrilled to see the government responding to the needs of SALCs,empowering them to expand their reach and strengthen their role as community hubs — keeping seniors active, healthy, and connected to their communities."

These initiatives demonstrate the many ways the province is meeting the needs of Ontario's seniors with better

supporting services and activities at the local level.

The funding announced today comes from an annual investment of more than \$15 million that is being allocated in quarterly payments to all existing SALC programs by the end of the 2024 fiscal year.

Additional funding of \$17 million over three years for supporting SALC programs was approved in the 2024 Fall Economic Statement.

In 2023, SALCs received base funding of up to \$42,700. This was increased to up to \$50,000 in 2024.

§ In the 2025-26 cycle, SALC programs will be able to request up to \$55,000 for maintenance and operating costs, an increase from the previous maximum of \$50,000 in 2024 and up from \$42,700 in maintenance and operating funding from 2023

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