



New report by leading seniors' organization scores Nova Scotia a 'D-' on vaccinating seniors

CanAge is releasing the second edition of its “vaccine report card”, scoring each province and territory on their efforts to vaccinate older adults—Government of Nova Scotia fails to improve low grade

For immediate release

TORONTO ON, Jan 31—CanAge, Canada's National Seniors' Advocacy Organization has released its second [‘cross-country report card on adult vaccination in Canada’](#). The groundbreaking report, updated annually, assigns each province and territory a letter grade on how effective they are in vaccinating seniors against preventable diseases, using a data-driven scoring rubric. The Government of Nova Scotia scored an overall grade of D-, unchanged from last year, due to persistent problems in vaccine funding and availability.

“The Government of Nova Scotia made some positive moves on adult vaccination this year, including enhancements to how vaccines are promoted to older people and offering seniors-specific flu shots alongside COVID-19 boosters to residents in long-term care,” says Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO of CanAge. “But it’s incredibly concerning that, with demand for the flu shot at a high, 95% of seniors in the province still have to pay out-of-pocket to get it.”

[The report’s](#) annual timing does cross over between the past Liberal government and the current PC government. Still, it shows that the Government of Nova Scotia has not made any improvements this year on funding the recommended vaccines for older adults against seasonal flu, shingles or pneumonia, despite health experts crediting higher immunization rates with reduced health care spending and burden—especially during the pandemic. For the 44% of people over age 50 in the province, this is a serious concern.

“Nova Scotia’s newly elected government has a real opportunity to champion preventive health in the province,” notes Tamblyn Watts. “Premier Houston is signaling a strong mandate on health and seniors’ care—committing to improve vaccine uptake in older populations needs to be a core pillar of those plans.”

The 2022 edition of [‘Adult Vaccination in Canada: Cross-Country Report Card’ is available for download now](#).

Regional media releases summarizing the findings for each province and territory are [available on the CanAge website](#).



About CanAge

[CanAge is Canada's National Seniors' Advocacy Organization](#), working to improve the lives of older adults through advocacy, policy, and community engagement. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization and backed by a broad pan-Canadian membership base. [Find out more.](#)

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