

Date: May 28, 2025

Via Facsimile: 613-941-6900

**The Honourable Ruby Sahota, P.C., MP.**

Secretary of State (Combating Crime)  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mrs. Ruby,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) and our 255,000+ members across Canada, we would like to sincerely congratulate you on your appointment as the Secretary of State (Combating Crime).

It was a pleasure seeing you again at the recent meeting of the Brampton CARP Chapter, prior to the election and I want to thank you for making the time during a busy campaign to acknowledge the contributions of seniors in your community.

As you know, older adults are the fastest-growing demographic in Canada. In 2023, 7.6 million Canadians were aged 65 and older. That number is expected to exceed 10.4 million by 2037, representing nearly a quarter of the population. This seismic demographic shift demands focused leadership, bold policy, and a deep commitment to ensuring older Canadians can age with dignity, security, and purpose. Yet, policy responses remain fragmented and under-resourced.

We are writing to urge your leadership and partnership on one of CARP's highest public safety priorities that matters most to older Canadians. As Canada's largest advocacy organization for seniors, our members are calling for bold coordinated federal action for financial fraud and scams protection.

**Financial Frauds and Scams Protection**

Older Canadians are disproportionately targeted by frauds and scams, often with devastating and irreversible consequences. In many cases, their entire retirement savings are drained – savings that cannot be rebuilt, especially for seniors who cannot re-enter the workforce. Fraud and scams are a billion-dollar industry in Canada. In 2024 alone, the reported losses totalled \$638 million – a figure that is not representative of the true dollar amount being lost as it is estimated that only 5-10% of fraud incidents are being reported. Seniors aged 60+ accounted for 17,000

cases and \$137.9 million in losses. If we are to take the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at its word, the losses for Canadians run into the billions of dollars every year.

Despite the severity of the crisis, federal and police efforts have largely focused on passive educational campaigns led by financial institutions and police forces. This is not enough. Victims are routinely left without support for recovery of funds and are instead blamed and rarely see justice. The lack of enforcement has allowed fraudsters to be emboldened and left unchecked for too long. In a recent CARP survey of our members, nearly 85% agreed that the government should do more to protect Canadians from fraud with legislation requiring banks to take proactive measures.

CARP calls for enhanced federal coordination to hold bank institutions accountable, enforce stronger penalties under the Criminal Code, and increase resources for fraud investigation and recovery of lost funds. Canada must urgently address the escalating crisis of financial fraud and exploitation targeting seniors.

We believe you to be positioned to help lead these reforms. As such, we urge you to work with CARP to develop policy responses and federal commitment that reflect the demographic urgency and the lived realities of our aging population. This is your opportunity to lead boldly and leave a lasting legacy for Canada's aging population. Our members are engaged, informed, and active—nearly 95% vote in federal elections. They expect a government that not only listens but acts decisively.

Meaningful progress on fraud prevention will require strong collaboration across federal portfolios. We encourage you to work closely with the Minister of Public Safety, the Minister of Finance and National Revenue, the Secretary of State for Seniors, and any other relevant cabinet ministers to ensure a coordinated and enforceable national strategy. Fraud prevention is not only a public safety issue – it is a financial and digital security crisis that demands the whole government approach so that seniors are protected and perpetrators are held accountable.

Attached is a backgrounder outlining the importance of protecting seniors against financial frauds and scams in greater detail, as well as our recommendations. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to explore how we can work together to support the health and dignity of Canada's aging population.

We are also copying this letter to the Honourable Stephanie McLean, Secretary of State (Seniors) for continuity of dialogue.

Thank you for your attention and service. We look forward to your response and leadership.

Yours sincerely,



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