



Preventive Oral Care for Seniors

By 2036, nearly 25% of Canada's population will be over age 65, with many seniors retaining most, if not all, of their natural teeth.



By 2036, it is expected that nearly 25% of Canada's population will be over age 65—almost double the proportion today. Canadians' life expectancy is also increasing, and many seniors have most, if not all, of their natural teeth, which means that oral health care services are now required for many more years than in the past. Even those Canadians with dentures still require access to preventive and therapeutic oral care.

Statistics indicate that Canadians between the ages of 60 and 79 are 40% less likely to have private dental insurance compared to the general population. As a result, older Canadians are often infrequent users of oral care services; long-term care residents in particular have a high prevalence of untreated oral disease. These preventable oral diseases frequently result in more costly emergency procedures.

What the Government Can Do

The federal government should play a leadership role by working with the provinces and territories to ensure that long-term care and homecare regulations and standards include daily mouth care and professional oral health care services.