

Ontario Seniors' Secretariat
Secrétariat aux affaires des personnes âgées de l'Ontario

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR SENIORS

Seniors Guide Now Available In Chinese, Italian and Portuguese

TORONTO – Chinese, Italian and Portuguese-speaking seniors and their families now have access to up-to-date information about important topics such as healthcare, housing and pensions in their language, thanks to new multilingual versions of **A Guide to Programs and Services for Seniors in Ontario**, said Minister Responsible for Seniors Jim Bradley today.

“We want to make it easy for seniors who speak Chinese, Italian and Portuguese to get information on services and topics of interest to them,” said Bradley. “That is why we created versions of this handy resource in Chinese, Italian and Portuguese.”

A significant number of Ontario’s seniors of Chinese, Italian and Portuguese heritage who report one of these languages as their first language have no knowledge of either English or French. These new guides will give these seniors the information they need about supports and services in their community.

The guide, also available in English and French, can be found at www.OntarioSeniors.ca.

“Having the guide in a variety of languages helps seniors and their families whose first language may not be English or French access important information directly,” said Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens' Organizations' Executive Director Morris Jesion. “I applaud the government for taking this step to help more seniors get the information they need to remain independent.”

These guides are just one more example of how, working together, Ontarians are achieving results to improve the quality of life for seniors. Other McGuinty government initiatives to support seniors include:

- Investing an additional \$104.7 million in funding for home care services, bringing the total funding for home care to \$1.54 billion for this year
- Investing hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce wait times for knee and hip joint replacements, cardiac care, MRI and CT scans, cataract and cancer surgeries
- Committing an additional \$1.65 million over the next two years for Ontario’s Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse.

“Reaching out to seniors of different cultures is part of the McGuinty government’s commitment to help Ontario seniors live in safety, with dignity and respect,” said Bradley.

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www.OntarioSeniors.ca