



**SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ON THE NATIONAL  
ADAPTATION STRATEGY**

**July 14, 2022**

***For further information:***

**SCAN! website: <https://seniorsforclimateactionnow.org/>**

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## INTRODUCTION

### **1. ABOUT SENIORS FOR CLIMATE ACTION NOW! (SCAN!)**

SCAN! appreciates this opportunity to contribute to the public engagement process in the development of Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy.

SCAN! is an organization of seniors currently based in Ontario and dedicated to informing and mobilizing seniors in the effort to prevent climate catastrophe. We recognize that climate action is also a demand for social justice and economic transformation – the opportunity, as well as the need, to address racism and economic inequities.

We acknowledge that Canada was founded on the occupation of Indigenous lands, and we value the contributions of Indigenous peoples in all aspects of Canadian life, including the development and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. We deeply appreciate the respect for earth – and for elders – embedded in indigenous world views.

SCAN! currently has more than 170 members. Our group is democratic in structure and aims to be accountable, equitable and participatory. We value the knowledge, experience, and views of our members. Among our members are both working and retired educators, researchers, writers, labour and women’s advocates, health workers, trades people, professionals, caregivers, filmmakers, actors and artists, parents, and grandparents.

### **2. COMMENTS ON THE NAS CONSULTATION PROCESS AND SCOPE**

#### **a) THE IMPORTANCE OF A SENIORS’ VOICE**

We note the absence of seniors’ representatives on the government’s adaptation Advisory Panels. We consider this a major omission. More than 18% of Canada’s population is over 65 years of age. As seniors, we have lived experience, a historical perspective, hard-won knowledge, and – often – wisdom that should not be ignored.

We desire to help safeguard the lives and well-being of the generations to come, including our children and grandchildren.

Seniors have a strong sense of urgency as we watch greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere climb ever faster, and climate impacts become more severe daily. As seniors, we have seen our weather get less and less predictable over time: hotter, stormier, windier, and so much less dependable.

We are particularly concerned about the impacts of climate change on seniors and other vulnerable populations, including children.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:  
SENIORS AND SENIORS’  
REPRESENTATIVES MUST  
HAVE A SEAT AT THE  
TABLE**

***b) THE ADEQUACY OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES LAID OUT TO DATE***

In its questions about the national adaptation strategy process thus far, the government asks, “Do the goals and objectives for each system capture the full range of action we need?” Our answer is *NO*. The need for adaptation to ensure the “strong and resilient economy” heralded by the government is indeed paramount, but it is hard to envision when fossil fuel interests, the big banks, resource extraction companies, highway contractors, suburban and high-rise development companies and the like dominate economic decision-making and are overly involved in government decision processes at all levels, including the Advisory Panel on a Strong and Resilient Economy. Climate change adaptation and mitigation both require a significant reorientation of the economy to ensure the basic needs of the population. The goals and objectives so far articulated fail to address these fundamentals.

The IPCC has made it completely clear: the severity and frequency of devastating climate impacts depend on the quantity and quality of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere, and most of those gases arise from humankind’s burning of fossil fuels and agricultural practices. The degree to which we mitigate those emissions sets not just the agenda, but also the timetable for adaptation. Unless global GHG emission start to decline by 2025, just three years from now, we lose even the 50% probability of being able to limit global warming to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the goal of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement of 2015.

We face an existential climate emergency because political and economic leaders have chosen business as usual, denial and delay. The scientists writing the latest IPCC Working Group II Summary for Policy Makers initially wrote a forceful statement on the inextricability of mitigation and adaptation only to have the panel of government representatives approving it water that statement down in the final version.

We are deeply concerned about Canada trying to develop a National Adaptation Strategy in the context of weak and inadequate climate change mitigation strategies. The potential for successful adaptation depends on dramatic reductions in emissions. If these don’t occur, then the impacts become more and more severe, and adaptation becomes much harder and much costlier to achieve.

Federal and provincial governments in Canada continue to subsidize and support the fossil fuel industry to the detriment of renewable energy solutions. They indulge in doublespeak when talking about Canada’s “low carbon fossil fuels”, or of emissions caps while approving new oil and gas projects.

The federal and Ontario governments also waste money and credibility when they support expensive, unproven, pie-in-the-sky “solutions” to emissions from the electricity sector, such as the deployment of small nuclear reactors.

Canada, along with the rest of the G7, went backwards from previous climate change commitments at the May 2022 meeting of the alliance, granting a range of exceptions to commitments to reduce fossil fuel subsidies, and dropping a commitment to making half of all vehicles zero-emission by 2030.

***RECOMMENDATION 2:***

***LOW-CARBON MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES NEED TO BE COORDINATED IN THE NATIONAL ADAPATION STRATEGY***

There needs to be a strong commitment to discussing mitigation and adaptation strategies together and to aligning those strategies wherever possible, emphasizing low-carbon adaptation, including nature-based solutions. This was mentioned by the Advisory Panel on Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure, but not developed.

***c) FOCUSING ADAPTATION MEASURES ON VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IS SOCIAL JUSTICE***

As the authors of the National Adaptation Strategy know, the impacts of climate change fall hardest on seniors, the poor, the marginalized, on Indigenous people and racial minorities, on people with chronic health issues, and on women. This is true internationally and in Canada. We discuss the specific vulnerabilities of seniors later in this submission. Here, however, we want to emphasize that recognizing them is not enough. A National Adaptation Strategy that does not incorporate specific actions to address inequities with specific fiscal policies (on income, housing, access to food, transportation, education, job opportunities, services, access to nature, etc.) will be a failure.

***RECOMMENDATION 3:  
PRIORITIZE VULNERABLE  
POPULATIONS IN  
ADAPTATION PROGRAM  
IMPLEMENTATION***

***d) THE NEED TO GO BEYOND “GOALS AND OBJECTIVES” TO DETAILED ACTION ALTERNATIVES – AND SOON***

In answer to the question of whether the NAS goals reflect where we need to be by 2030 and 2050 – again our answer is *NO*. We need to have adequate and guaranteed housing for all located in safe zones with appropriate heating and cooling systems, full medical and social support, a reintegration with nature (bringing nature back to the cities), and protection against weather extremes. We need good work, adequately compensated, and geared towards meeting the needs of Canadians as opposed to producing profits for company executives and shareholders while they subject us to climate and other environmental hazards with impunity. We need a regenerative agricultural system that provides most of the food that Canadians require, instead of high-carbon industrial agriculture geared largely to livestock feed production and grains for export while we import up to 80% of our fruits and vegetables.

The focus of the National Adaptation Strategy process thus far has been on broad goals and objectives without an outline of the specific actions needed to implement them. It’s difficult to disagree with many of the identified goals, but they are meaningless in the absence of detailed descriptions of adaptation actions that need to be taken to achieve them on local, regional and national levels. Ideally, adaptation planning and implementation will be based on risk assessments that take into account climate science scenarios of promised and probable levels of mitigation, globally and in Canada. Also ideally, cost-benefit analyses should inform the selection of adaptation options to be undertaken, whether in the realm of physical or social infrastructure or nature-based solutions. However, we do not want to be seen to encourage the delay of concrete plans and actions for adaptation while the government slowly conducts risk assessment and cost benefit analyses. A wealth of research has been done in Canada and elsewhere that provides direction about programs that are essential to improve the resilience of the country in the face of climate impacts. It’s past time to lay those concrete options out.

#### ***e) FINANCING FOR ADAPTATION***

The current federal financing for adaptation initiatives (\$1.9 billion for provincial and territorial disaster response in the 2021 budget, \$1.4 billion for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund in addition to the original commitment of \$2 billion over 10 years, along with much smaller investments in flood maps, health adaptation, and infrastructure standards), is tiny in relation to the disasters that are upon us already, and especially in comparison to the continuing subsidies for fossil fuel industries and projects. As the Canadian Climate Institute recently [reported](#): “Canada’s national adaptation gap is in part the result of insufficient funding. For example, federal government funding for adaptation from 2017-2021 represented only 13 per cent of all climate change-related spending, with the largest single program—the \$2 billion Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund—massively oversubscribed. The \$10 billion reboot of the Canada Infrastructure Bank neglected any mention of resilience or adaptation.”

Unlike other levels of government, the federal Government of Canada has the fiscal and monetary powers to finance effective mitigation and adaptation programs. It is going to have to up its game on mitigation and adaptation as well as on [social equity](#) if we are going to transition to a low carbon economy adapted to the earth’s planetary boundaries and resilient to the climate change impacts already in train.

**RECOMMENDATION 4:**  
**GET TO DETAILED  
ADAPTATION ACTION PLANS  
FAST AND SPEND WHAT IT  
TAKES**

#### ***f) OVERCOMING BARRIERS CREATED BY THE DIVISION OF POWERS IN CANADA’S FEDERAL SYSTEM***

We need an open and frank public discussion about ways in which the current federal system and the division of powers make effective mitigation and adaptation actions very difficult. We need to openly discuss ways to motivate/incentivize action by recalcitrant partners.

As the report from the Advisory Panel on Resilient Natural and Built Infrastructure points out: “(D)ue to the absence of collaboration, coordination, alignment, and knowledge-sharing between various partners and stakeholders, and inadequate intentional investment to address climate related risks, there are missed opportunities, siloed and piecemeal approaches, objectives that are sometimes in conflict, policies and processes that block progress on resilience, and an overall inability to monitor progress and amplify successes.” This is a major problem, especially where municipal governments own almost 2/3 of Canada’s publicly owned infrastructure (61.9%), the provinces (which control much of the work done by local governments) own a third (32.6%), the federal government just 2.8%, and indigenous communities 2.7%. And a growing proportion of our infrastructure has been privatized.

**RECOMMENDATION 5:**  
**A TASK FORCE ON  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COORDINATION SHOULD BE  
INCLUDED IN NATIONAL  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
MITIGATION AND  
ADAPATION STRATEGIES. ITS  
DELIBERATIONS SHOULD BE  
PUBLIC.**

The sabotage and foot-dragging of several provincial governments (notably Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Newfoundland) and by major industries (oil and gas, forestry, mining, and construction among others) make strong national adaptation and mitigation strategies much more difficult to achieve. Ontario, for example, convened an [Expert Panel in 2019](#) to assess the expected impacts of climate change on the province. The Panel reported in November 2021, but that report has been kept under wraps by the Ford government. Not even Ontario's Auditor General has been able to access a copy. This makes adaptation planning for the province much more difficult, not to mention collaboration with other levels of government in Canada.

We need an open discussion of strategies to circumvent powerful Canadian and international deniers, blockers, and saboteurs. At a minimum, strong conditions must be tied to any federal funding for adaptation initiatives to prevent provinces from pocketing the money and failing to produce.

### **3. WAYS IN WHICH SENIORS ARE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Canada's population is aging, and its most rapidly growing segment is seniors over 80.

There exists a continuum of capacity among older adults, with some of us healthy, active, and engaged members of our communities/nation, and others in a more fragile state.

Seniors are, in general, more vulnerable to climate change, especially to climate emergencies. The Canadian Red Cross recently published a [report](#) that stated: "Older adults consistently experience the greatest proportion of casualties during and after emergencies in Canada, and internationally, when compared to younger age groups." Climate-related emergencies are particularly dangerous: "(I)n 1998, ice storms resulted in widespread power outages across Quebec that saw 600,000 people... forced from their homes and a high mortality rate among older persons due to a lack of available heating equipment, less optimal housing conditions, and poor coordination between emergency, health, and social services... Over a decade later in 2010, more than half of all deaths resulting from heat waves in Quebec were among persons aged 75 years or older... In the 2017 wildfires in British Columbia and floods in Quebec, older adults were impacted the hardest due to their greater levels of vulnerability, while poorly coordinated protocols left them more vulnerable due to delays in initiating evacuation procedures."

#### **a) VULNERABILITY OF SENIORS TO EXTREME HEAT**

Seniors are especially vulnerable to extreme heat. Aging reduces the ability of the body to thermo-regulate. As the [US National Council on Aging](#) states: The "capacity for maintaining core body temperature becomes more compromised with age. Heat and dehydration are physically stressful for people with chronic medical conditions. Declining ability of cardio-vascular efficiency to shift blood to the skin contributes to less efficient sweating, the body's primary defense against overheating."

We saw this clearly in the "heat dome" that covered parts of BC, Washington state and Oregon last year. The [BC Coroner's Office](#) reported 619 deaths in one week during the 2021 heat dome event, 67% of which were seniors over the age of 70. This event not only demonstrated the vulnerability of seniors to extreme heat, it highlighted the inadequacy of the [BC government's approach](#) at the time, which was to urge British Columbians to buy air conditioners, heat pumps, thermal blinds, fans, etc. But there was no program to aid low-income and vulnerable people to purchase these tools, nor a co-ordinated plan to

get low-mobility people to cooling centres. Nor a longer-term strategy to ensure that the residences of vulnerable seniors can be kept cool.

Health conditions which are more common in the older population make us more susceptible to illness and death when exposed to extreme and/or extended heat waves or the resulting air pollution. According to Patrick Kinney of the Boston University School of Public Health, several health problems that are frequently encountered among seniors amplify difficulties with thermo-regulation, including chronic cardiovascular, respiratory illness, diabetes, renal diseases, nervous system disorders, Parkinson's disease, emphysema, and epilepsy. Some medications (for high blood pressure or cholesterol, for example) further reduce the ability to thermoregulate.

Although it is relatively well-known that seniors are more vulnerable to dying from heat-related stresses, in most of Canada deaths linked to heat are not properly registered on death certificates, except perhaps in Quebec. So, while we know there is a problem, we don't yet know the full extent.

#### ***b) PHYSICAL MOBILITY ISSUES AND DEPENDENCE ON POWERED EQUIPMENT***

Physical mobility issues, including dependence on a wheelchair, or lack of access to transportation, makes survival more difficult in extreme weather events, including extreme heat, floods, tornadoes, and wildfires. Nearly half the deaths which occurred in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, were in people 75 or older, who were unable to go to safe locations during and after the storm. Power cuts and blackouts are particularly dangerous for seniors who may be unable to use the stairs in high- or medium-rise buildings.

Those seniors who are dependent on life support equipment such as oxygen generators or ventilators or electric wheelchairs that require recharging are also at risk during extreme weather events that result in power outages.

#### ***c) COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT***

Cognitive impairments in seniors, including moderate to severe dementia, can reduce the ability to assess risks, plan responses, and take protective actions. This is particularly concerning, given the near-total dependence of many adaptation proposals on risk communications to encourage seniors to take individual action to protect themselves and/or plan for emergencies.

#### ***d) SOCIAL ISOLATION***

Social isolation is also an issue for many seniors who live alone. The [Chicago heat wave](#) of July 1995, resulted in 739 heat-related deaths, of which an estimated 72% were people older than 65, many of them seniors living alone, in poor neighbourhoods. Seniors may be dependent on elderly spouses or volunteer caregivers, community health agencies or medical services that are unavailable or overwhelmed in climate emergencies.

#### ***e) LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCES***

Many seniors live on small, fixed incomes with few or no savings. This limits their ability to invest in individual adaptations, whether that is air conditioning; better insulated or flood-protected and storm-resilient homes; backup power generation, safeguards against wildfires, etc. These limits were recently highlighted when a [landlord on Jameson Avenue](#) in Toronto, home to many low-income seniors and new

immigrants, demanded that tenants be prepared to pay an unspecified addition to their rent or remove their window air conditioners or be evicted.

#### **f) EMERGENCY DISLOCATION**

In Canada, it is most often indigenous people who are forced to relocate, year after year, from forest fires and flooding. The American [National Council on Aging](#) points out that climate disasters are also especially hard on seniors. “(T)emporary shelters can be overwhelming, crowded, and located in unfamiliar open public places. Chaotic environments can be disorienting and confusing, especially for those with pre-existing cognitive difficulties. This can tip the balance for those marginally coping and create cycles of physical and mental health decline.”

#### **g) OTHER CONCERNS**

Living in long-term care facilities, with caregivers and health personnel readily at hand, backup generators, and other facilities would appear to be safer for seniors, but the experience of the Covid epidemic puts paid to the idea that congregate living will likely provide protection against climate change and weather emergencies, especially in for-profit facilities.

Less direct, the spending by governments in response to climate emergencies and disasters diverts funds that should be available for social services to improve the lives of older and other vulnerable Canadians.

### **4. SHORT-TERM ADAPTATION ACTIONS NECESSARY FOR SENIORS**

It bears repeating that, to ensure that adaptation strategies properly address the needs of seniors, **we must be at the table**. Seniors and representatives of seniors’ organizations must be included in the advisory panels and adaptation strategy development. Indigenous representatives have been brought into all the Advisory Panels, and their participation appears to be reflected in some of the goals and objectives outlined by the panels, though we hasten to add that only Indigenous people can determine whether that process has been appropriate and valuable. We hope that their participation and influence continue as action plans are drawn up. In the meantime, representation also needs to be extended to seniors and other vulnerable populations.

Adaptation strategies proposed for seniors, such as those advanced by the [Canadian Red Cross](#), have tended to focus primarily on educating seniors or their caregivers on the risks of climate change and urging them to take individual actions to protect themselves – drinking water in hot weather, going to cooling centres, purchasing and employing fans and air conditioners, etc.

Programs designed to inform seniors and caregivers about potential climate impacts and individual protective measures are a good thing, and we need more of them. However, as a stand-alone strategy it is wholly inadequate. It puts the onus on individuals to act to protect themselves, which is increasingly difficult to do in the absence of profound structural changes to the physical and natural infrastructure, environments where seniors live and social support services for them. As discussed in a 2016 [study](#) of the vulnerability of seniors to the coastal impacts of climate change, many seniors

**RECOMMENDATION 6:  
DON'T MAKE SENIORS  
DEPEND ON ADAPTATIONS AT  
THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL –  
SYSTEMIC SUPPORT IS  
NECESSARY**



“may be affected by medical conditions associated with advanced age, such as reduced mobility, sensory impairment, or confusion” which “make it difficult or impossible for an individual to receive, understand, and respond to warnings”. And, as we have noted previously, many seniors do not have the financial or other resources needed to, for example, make their dwellings more resilient in the face of floods, wildfires, or extreme heat.

A variety of mapping projects to identify locations in Canada that are at risk of climate extremes are underway. This is valuable work. However, in addition to mapping geographical locales that are vulnerable to flooding, windstorms, wildfires, extreme heat, etc., we should be mapping vulnerable populations within threatened zones, including seniors, and identifying potential impacts to infrastructure and services that seniors rely on. A recent [report](#) from Alberta, and a [study](#) done in Nova Scotia show how this can be done.

**RECOMMENDATION 7:  
IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE THE  
EXPECTED IMPACTS OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE ON SENIORS  
WHERE THEY ARE**

Mapping the location of seniors – in long-term care, apartment blocks dedicated to older adults, and in neighbourhoods and towns where large number of seniors are located – will allow for better deployment of short-term adaptation measures and emergency response, including wellness checks during and after climate emergencies. Voluntary registries of vulnerable adults should be considered as an aid for search and rescue operations during or following climate emergencies.

In addition to mapping initiatives, Canada must do a much better job of tracking deaths caused or contributed to by extreme climate events and conditions and ensure that climate contributions are listed on death certificates. This is essential for properly assessing the risks of climate impacts.

Moving forward on both mitigation and adaptation requires a massive investment in building new, resilient social housing and renovating our housing stock to make it both low-carbon and resilient. Work on buildings where seniors live should take priority. We also need to:

- Strengthen the national and provincial building codes and ensure that a new retrofit code contains passive house standards for air sealing, insulation, energy efficiency of window and doors, etc.
- Require landlords to cool residential buildings in summer, as we require them to heat these buildings in winter
- Provide more and larger grants, subsidies, and installation programs to install heat pumps for low- or no-carbon air conditioning in residential buildings where seniors are living
- Support community-based retrofits/renovations on housing occupied by seniors and other vulnerable populations, to improve insulation, wind-resistance, flood-resilience, etc.
- Invest in countrywide, free, job-training programs, working with community colleges, labour training centres, apprenticeship programs, and social enterprises to ensure we have the skilled trades needed to implement large-scale retrofits of seniors’ and low-income housing

**RECOMMENDATION 8:  
IMPROVE THE RESILIENCE OF  
SENIORS’ HOMES AND  
RESIDENCES**

- Support social enterprises that train youth and marginalized community members while undertaking retrofits for housing and social service organizations in seniors’ and low-income housing.

Given the particular vulnerability of seniors to heat, adaptation actions to reduce heat islands should be prioritized, especially in urban environments and areas currently covered in concrete and asphalt. We need:

- Welcoming, safe, and accessible green spaces in every neighbourhood, incorporating features such as trees, swales, retention ponds, etc. that not only provide cooler environments but aid in managing stormwater and reducing flooding
- Expansion of sustainable street tree cover and shade structures on streets and in parking lots to allow vulnerable people to go outdoors during hot periods
- Building standards that require blue or green roof installations on new buildings and buildings where major renovations/retrofits are being done.

**RECOMMENDATION 9:  
REDUCE HEAT ISLANDS**

Because of the dependence by many seniors on continuous electrical power, we need to ensure the stability and continuity of our electrical power supply and distribution system in the face of climate extremes and emergencies—and we need to do it while increasing electricity supply to power electric vehicles and heat pumps, among other things, as well as eliminating fossil fuel power stations. In the short term we need to:

- Increase investment in and expand the reach of NRCAN’s Smart Grid program to increase the resiliency of the grid, as well as improve the capacity for utilizing renewable generation
- Rapidly expand diverse, distributed, and redundant renewable energy sources
- Ensure community buildings and seniors’ housing can operate off-grid during power outages, preferably with non-fossil sources of power and storage (solar installations on seniors’ buildings, for example, backed up with battery arrays).

**RECOMMENDATION 10:  
STRENGTHEN AND  
MAKE ELECTRICAL  
SYSTEMS MORE  
RESILIENT**

It’s striking that almost all of the publicly available [plans and reports](#) by the federal government related to emergency response planning for seniors predate 2010. And the Advisory Panel on Disaster Resilience and Security, aside from identifying some of the vaguest objectives possible for adaptation planning, does not once mention seniors. This must change. Every year in Canada we see the results of inadequate and inept emergency planning, highlighted by the heat dome, wildfires, and flooding in BC during 2021, and the powerful thunderstorms that left a trail of destruction and downed power lines in Ontario and Quebec in May.

Emergency planning and planners in Canada must be better coordinated and integrated with those in government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector who are developing and implementing climate resilience strategies. Emergency planning must be based on knowledge and

assessment of the probability of heat waves, flooding, wildfires, tornados and hurricanes, ice storms and other climate hazards that are particularly dangerous for seniors as well as poor and marginalized communities.

At present, there is a surfeit of literature from government, the Red Cross and public health departments advising seniors about how they might, as individuals, prepare for emergencies, and much too little information available about making physical infrastructure and emergency and social services more resilient to provide better protection. SCAN! does not pretend to have expertise in emergency planning and response at present, but we do have some suggestions to improve the outcomes for seniors confronted with a climate emergency or disaster:

**RECOMMENDATION 11:  
IMPROVE EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE PLANNING AND  
EXECUTION WITH SENIORS IN  
MIND**

- Warning systems must be improved and, while local governments should have a role in getting warnings out, they must not be saddled with a responsibility that they are not equipped to undertake, as was the case in BC as flooding began last year when warnings were uncoordinated and, in many areas, did not go out at all until the emergency was fully upon many local communities.
- It is vital to be able to locate seniors and other at-risk individuals to enable emergency responders to prioritize search and rescue efforts more easily. Seniors should be involved in planning intervention options and priorities.
- Seniors should be consulted and prioritized in rebuilding efforts following disasters.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of the ‘fierce urgency of now’ at the march on Washington in 1963. SCAN! members feel that urgency deeply with respect to the climate emergency. We know there are solutions to this man-made problem and that we in Canada have the capacity to create a low carbon political economy that is sustainable and resilient for generations to come. In the short time we have left, we are driven to demand that political and economic leadership make it happen. We must be consulted and have much to offer. We know that the climate crisis must be viewed holistically, ecologically, and that measures taken must be based on caring social justice or they will fail. We hope that the recommendations made herein will facilitate preparation of an effective, inclusive National Adaptation Strategy.

## **SUMMARY OF SCAN! RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Seniors and seniors' representatives must have a seat at the table.**
- 2. Low-carbon mitigation and adaptation strategies need to be coordinated in the National Adaptation Strategy.**
- 3. Prioritize vulnerable populations in adaptation program implementation.**
- 4. Get to detailed adaptation plans fast and spend what it takes.**
- 5. A task force on intergovernmental coordination should be included in national adaptation and mitigation strategy development and implementation. Its deliberations should be public.**
- 6. Don't make seniors depend on individual adaptations – systemic support is necessary.**
- 7. Identify and evaluate the expected impacts of climate change on seniors where they are.**
- 8. Improve the resilience of seniors' homes and residences.**
- 9. Reduce heat islands.**
- 10. Strengthen and make electrical systems more resilient.**
- 11. Improve emergency response planning and execution with seniors in mind.**