

# Editorial: Something Old, Something New . . .

By the time you receive this issue of the *Canadian Journal on Aging*, four independent events will have taken place. On 1 March 2007, I received a copy of "Embracing the Challenge of Aging," the *Special Senate Committee on Aging First Interim Report*. On 12 March 2007, I received a media package from the Government of Canada announcing that Jean-Guy Soulière has been selected as the chair of the new National Seniors Council. On 13 March 2007, Statistics Canada released the first demographic information from the 2006 Census. On 22 March, I will have spoken at a one-day symposium organized by the Queen's University Centre for the Study of Democracy entitled, "Kingston's Bed Shortage—A Local Hiccup or the Forerunner of a Systemic Crisis?"

The good news is that Canada's seniors have not fallen off the political agendas of our national, provincial, or local politicians. Among the "witnesses" who spoke to the Special Senate Committee were our president Sandi Hirst, Anne Martin-Matthews, scientific director of the CIHR Institute on Aging, various prominent members of our association, and colleagues in government who support research on aging. I would encourage everyone to get a copy of the *First Interim Report* and no doubt the subsequent reports and read them.

For many years, the CAG has had a close and productive relationship with the National Advisory Council on Aging (NACA). The challenge for the CAG will be to develop a similar relationship with Jean-Guy Soulière and the National Seniors Council. We should wish Mr. Soulière and the National Seniors Council well and hope they will attend our annual meetings and seek our views in the future.

No doubt some of you, like me, received requests from the media to comment on the release of the 2006 Census data. The initial release, which received wide-ranging media coverage, unfortunately, did not have the age and sex breakdowns. The next release, on Tuesday, 17 July 2007, will contain the age and sex data. There will be opportunities for us to

comment on what the data mean for Canada's elderly population. I would encourage everyone who is asked to comment to do so.

While the fourth event was motivated by local circumstances, an ongoing shortage of hospital and long-term beds in the Kingston region, it is an issue that is challenging Canadian communities across the country: how to provide acute care, long-term care, palliative care, and home care. I was extremely pleased to be invited to speak at this event because it was an opportunity to provide a gerontological perspective on an issue that is often dominated by the views of health care administrators, physicians, and economists. It was also an opportunity to promote our organization and the research found in the *CJA*. To me, it is imperative that we participate in these types of events and promote our research, our journal, and our organization.

Why "Something old, something new . . .?" The four events discussed above represent new opportunities and challenges for us as researchers and for our association. The four events also made me reflect on the past two-plus years of experience I have had as editor-in-chief of the journal. Every week, I read the papers submitted and papers to be published in the *CJA*. While I continue to marvel at the quality, diversity, and range of topics covered in the journal, it also struck me that I rarely read a paper that proposes bold new ways of thinking about issues that have been on the research and political agenda for the past two decades. With new data and new opportunities to present our ideas, is it also time that we begin a dialogue that challenges the assumptions we have used to study Canada's elderly population and debate new conceptual frameworks and models of delivery in the pages of the *CJA* and at our annual meetings?

As always, please contact me at [rosenber@post.queensu.ca](mailto:rosenber@post.queensu.ca) if you have any thoughts about this editorial or any other aspect of the *CJA*.

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Editor-in-Chief

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