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## Seniors Action Quebec Welcomes Additional Support for Seniors and for the English-speaking Community Announced in Quebec Budget

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Montréal** - Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) welcomes the Quebec government's recognition of the particular needs of seniors, a continually increasing demographic, in its 2023-2024 budget. Its announcement of \$2.0 billion over the next five years in support of health and social services, especially for seniors with diminishing autonomy, is a timely and necessary acknowledgement of systemic shortcomings. SAQ endorses and supports the prioritisation of the following areas of activity highlighted in the budget:

- For seniors wishing to live at home, \$963.5 million that will serve to increase the supply of home-support services, professional care, services for informal and family caregivers (e.g. respite) and technical support (e.g. adjustable beds);
- For seniors needing adapted housing (e.g. seniors' homes) \$705.0 million that is allocated to ensure high quality and safe living environments;
- For those government initiatives in support of seniors and informal or family caregivers that have been allocated \$202.7 million to continue.

Seniors Action Quebec also welcomes the allocation of \$31.5 million to the Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise (SRQEA) in support of its mission to strengthen the vitality of Quebec's English-speaking community.

The Quebec government has committed \$26.5 million over the next five years to extend and improve programs aimed at supporting the capacity for action of community groups, institutions and partnership networks that support English-speaking communities throughout Quebec.

Another \$5 million over the next three years will support existing community-based Wellness Centres for English-speaking seniors and allow for an expansion of points of service.

We are especially pleased that the Quebec government recognizes the particular needs of English-speaking seniors in this budget. English-speaking seniors represent a significant proportion of Quebec's English-speaking population. Every effort that identifies and addresses the particular needs of this population contributes positively to the vitality of all communities in Quebec.

Seniors Action Quebec will continue to work in partnership and harmony with community groups, institutions and government agencies to identify needs, gaps and shortcomings in service offerings for English-speaking seniors. SAQ will propose solutions and policy alternatives that address these needs. We will monitor the implementation of the initiatives announced in this budget as they effect English-speaking seniors.

Seniors Action Quebec is a provincial not-for-profit organization that collaborates with, supports, and brings together English-language community organizations working to maintain and enhance the vitality, well-being and health of English-speaking Quebec seniors. We work with government to identify and address challenges and strategic issues faced by English-speaking seniors and to propose policy alternatives that best respond to these.

**For further information:**

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