

NIA Statement on the Death of Honorary Advisory Board Chair the Honourable William Davis

It was with great sadness that our Advisory Board and staff learned about the recent death of the Honourable William Davis, former Premier of Ontario (1971-1985) and Honorary Chair of the NIA.

"Words cannot adequately express the positive impact that Mr. Davis had on the lives of so many people," says NIA Co-Chair and Founder Mitch Frazer. "He was the true embodiment of what it means to be a great Ontarian and a great Canadian. I am grateful to be able to call him my friend and mentor. He will be missed."

As Honorary Chair of the NIA, Mr. Davis provided valued counsel, advice and direction to support our mission to improve the health, well-being and financial security of older Canadians.

"Mr. Davis' record of public service has become legendary, including his ongoing and enduring commitment to improving the lives of all Ontarians and Canadians," says Dr. Samir Sinha, NIA Co-Chair, Founder and Director of Health Policy Research. "I was grateful to be able to call him my patient, friend and mentor. His particular support in helping to establish the National Institute on Ageing as Canada's leading ageing-related public policy research institute will never be forgotten, as ageing becomes one of our country's greatest future public policy challenges."

Serving as a member of the Ontario Legislature from 1959 to 1985, Mr. Davis devoted his career to public service, with a deep commitment to community, family and the modernization of the Province of Ontario.

During his time as Education Minister in the early 1960s, he led significant reforms including the creation of Ontario's Institute for Studies in Education and the establishment of the province's community college system. As Premier, he expanded Ontario's social services and technological initiatives and played a key role in negotiating Canada's constitutional accord.

In 1987, Mr. Davis received the Order of Ontario and in 2001 he was inducted as a Knight into l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur by the Ambassador of France.

We are grateful to Mr. Davis for his significant contributions to our work and for the impact he had on the lives of so many. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

The National Institute on Ageing is a Ryerson University think tank focused on the realities of Canada's ageing population.