

The National Institute on Ageing and The LIFE Institute Launch Research Program to Help Prepare the Next Generation of Experts to Address Canada's Ageing Population

The National Institute on Ageing (NIA) and [The LIFE Institute](#) are proud to announce a new research program at Ryerson University, which will enable current Ryerson students to help contribute new ideas and approaches to the most pressing issues facing older Canadians today, and in the years ahead.

Through the NIA Healthy Ageing Scholars Program, two exceptional Ryerson University students will participate in research projects to support the health, well-being and financial security of Canadians for generations to come. Developed with The LIFE Institute's contribution of \$72,000 over the next three years, the program will prepare student researchers at Ryerson University to become the next generation of experts to help address the challenges and harness the opportunities of Canada's ageing population.

"Our NIA Healthy Ageing Scholars Program is unique in that it is tailored to support the next generation of researchers to develop their skills and ideas in an environment that will amplify the impact of their work," says Michael Nicin, Executive Director of the NIA. "Under the mentorship of experts in the field, Ryerson University students will make substantive contributions to addressing some of the most significant issues we are facing as a country. Our partnership with The LIFE Institute, a partner and leader in lifelong learning at Ryerson University, will provide meaningful opportunities for young researchers to help make Canada the best place to grow up and grow old."

The challenges posed by an ageing population, and the issues faced by older adults themselves, are complex and require a multidisciplinary approach. Research in the field of ageing includes areas of focus as diverse and varied as home care, transportation, affordable housing, ageism, poverty, accessibility, pension reform and equity. NIA Healthy Ageing Scholars will be selected from a variety of different disciplines at Ryerson University— including urban planning, gerontology, health studies and more — to advance scholarship and innovation in ageing from different perspectives. [Interested students are encouraged to apply today!](#)

The NIA is also pleased to announce the appointment of Virginia Bosomworth to its Advisory Board. An accomplished and versatile leader, Virginia has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry in the United States. After relocating to Toronto, she launched her own consulting practice linking strategy with performance outcomes. Throughout her career, Virginia participated as a community leader serving non-profit organizations in a variety of roles in both the United States and Canada, including serving on The LIFE Institute Board of Directors since 2013.

“The NIA Healthy Ageing Scholars Program is an important new initiative that will provide Ryerson students with exceptional opportunities to gain research experience while contributing to healthy ageing in Canada,” says Virginia Bosomworth, current Board Member and past Chair at The LIFE Institute—a volunteer-run organization that provides high quality learning, socializing and a contributing environment for its 1,800 members.

“While supporting students to build skills and work alongside leaders in the field, this program will also help to create a pipeline of talent for years to come,” Bosomworth adds. “This is essential as Canada seeks to meet the needs and ensure the health and well-being of older adults in communities across the country. The LIFE Institute is proud to partner with the NIA to support student scholarship while contributing to solutions for an ageing population.”

Currently an active member of The LIFE Institute Board of Directors, Virginia also served as Chair over a five-year period during a time of significant membership growth. The LIFE Institute is a Toronto-based charitable organization dedicated to providing lifelong learning opportunities for older adults.

In this foundational year of the Health Ageing Scholars Program, and the NIA and The LIFE Institute partnership, we are thrilled to welcome Virginia Bosomworth to the Advisory Board.

About The National Institute on Ageing

The National Institute on Ageing is a Ryerson University think tank focused on the realities of Canada’s ageing population. Follow us on Twitter [@RyersonNIA](https://twitter.com/RyersonNIA) and support our call for a National Seniors Strategy [@NSS Now](https://twitter.com/NSS_Now).

About The LIFE Institute

The LIFE Institute enables adults age 50+ to pursue their passion for life-long learning through a wide range of educational courses, activities and related opportunities to volunteer. Follow us on Twitter [@LIFEINSTITUTE2](https://twitter.com/LIFEINSTITUTE2).

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