



E-NEWSLETTER - Vol. 1 No. 1

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WELCOME to the Canadian Senior Artists' Resource Network

This is the first edition of an electronic newsletter with information relevant to senior artists. We hope you will find it informative and helpful. If you have ideas about what you like to see in future editions, please let us know at info@csarn-craac.ca and we will try our best to accommodate the request.

The Canadian Senior Artists' Network|Centre de ressources pour les artistes âgés du Canada was launched earlier this year by artists' associations to assist professional senior artists, whose contribution to the culture and economy of Canada is profound, to live out their senior years in dignity and respect. CSARN|CRAAC is a registered charity and is grateful to receive funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Help us to connect with other senior artists.

We know that our list of senior artists is incomplete. The list was generated initially from the various unions and guilds for purposes of the research project and some updates have been made as a result of information we have circulated. But, we need your help to make sure we are connecting with as many colleagues as we can.

Please spread the word and send us a note at info@csarn-craac.ca.

Background: who was behind the idea and what led to the launch of CSARN|CRAAC?

In 2006, 14 artists' associations and several individuals came together in response to the growing awareness that senior Canadian artists are experiencing significant challenges. To acquire the necessary data, they established the Senior Artists Research Project in 2009 to investigate the circumstances, situation, needs and interests of Canadian senior artists, looking at what services are presently available to them, and examining relevant international models. Many of you contributed to this process by completing the questionnaire and/or attending one of the focus groups held across the country.

The research confirmed that senior artists experience challenges in the areas of finances, housing, health, isolation and career, some of which are shared by other seniors and some of which are unique to artists. Using the survey data, an assessment of the risk factors of senior artists found that:

- o 61 percent of senior artists are at moderate or high **financial** risk.
- o 73 percent are at moderate or high **health** risk.
- o 28 percent are at moderate or high risk of **isolation**.
- o 42 percent are at moderate or high risk with regards to their **artistic career or legacy**.

Based on this data, in 2011 the community decided to collaborate in the launch of CSARN|CRAAC to meet the needs identified in the research.

Seminar Series

CSARN|CRAAC's first activity was a series of seminars of general interest to senior artists. They were held from April to June at PAL Toronto. The seminar series was sponsored by Morneau Shepell Inc.

We apologize that our initial plan to webcast the session proved too costly. However, we do have a record of each presentation that was made, either as a document, PowerPoint presentation or video recording. We will make these available as soon as we launch our website.

In the meantime, we do have copies of the following PowerPoint presentations available on

request.

Ben Reale CFP, Acquaint Financial:

Government Retirement Programs

My Finances

Estate Planning

AND

Elise Orenstein LL.B.:

Copyright and Estate Planning: Legacy and the Law

One of the final comments at the last seminar was an optimistic note about the importance of the CSARN|CRAAC seminar series, and perhaps of the entire initiative:

"These seminars and this evening's interchange between colleagues bring hope, humanity and good energy. Hearing from colleagues about the problems of aging, and possible solutions, is most rewarding and makes the road much easier to walk."

What should we call our newsletter? If you have an idea for a good name for our newsletter, send it to us! Better if it works in both official languages. We'll give a prize for the best entry!

The Canadian Senior Artists Resource Network (CSARN) - Le Centre de ressources pour les artistes aînés du Canada (CRAAC) gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

**Canadian Senior Artists Resource Network (CSARN) |
Centre de ressources pour les artistes aînés du Canada (CRAAC)**