

Better health. Better health care.

The O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary supports excellence in population health and health services research, realizing the benefits of such research by informing community, policy and health-practice stakeholders.

As an Institute, we share a vision of "better health and health care," reflecting our two priority research areas of improved population health and enhanced health systems performance.

The institute's success in brokering broader external relationships, with provincial and national interest groups, policy makers, research agencies, the media, philanthropists, and community stakeholders, further extends the reach and impact of our members' significant research outputs.



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O'Brien Institute for Public Health
Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging

Healthy aging through education, research, outreach and public policy

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As part of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health, the Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging aims to improve the quality of life of older persons through education, research, outreach, and informed public policy

Canada's population is aging. In order to benefit from this demographic shift, we must create communities and environments that support us as we age. The Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging is committed to making this happen.

The Centre on Aging was launched in 2011 through a generous donation by the Brenda Strafford Foundation. With its move into the O'Brien Institute for Public Health in 2016, the centre is positioned to function as a hub that supports the work of University of Calgary faculty and students working in the area of aging. Our activities fall into four broad areas:

Building interdisciplinary research capacity

We identify opportunities to connect researchers across disciplines, and with community agencies and government. The centre provides catalyst funding for interdisciplinary research projects and supports

both the operation of the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging and utilization of the data being collected. Centre personnel are also involved in several local and national interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Promoting interdisciplinary education opportunities

The centre awards Dr. Barrie I. Strafford scholarships at the Masters, Doctoral, and Post-Doctoral levels. These awards are targeted to students engaged in interdisciplinary work on aging-specific topics. The centre also supports student-led initiatives across the university and provides opportunities for students to connect with each other, faculty and the community.

Engaging with the community

A key priority of the centre is ensuring the growing body of knowledge on aging is shared

with our local community, and that perspectives of older persons are included. We achieve this through an array of outreach initiatives and have taken on a community leadership role by organizing events and collaborating with other organizations and agencies to support relevant activities. We include older adults in our planning activities and advocate for others to do the same.

Informing aging policy and practice

Our centre is designed to inform public policy in a range of ways. We can help solicit the input of older persons, link the university community to the various levels of government and to community agencies, and support work focusing on emerging social issues related to the aging population. We strive to be thoughtful, balanced, and credible in all of these activities.