

**NSGREA and SAC: A relationship that speaks to the advisory capacity, and the responsibility of NSGREA to represent the membership.**

**We are a strong voice within Nova Scotia**

The Seniors' Advisory Council of Nova Scotia (SACONS), formerly referred to as the Group of IX, is an independent volunteer body that advises the provincial government through the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care. (DSLTC) on policies, programs, and services for older adults. It represents over 100,000 seniors and retirees, aiming to enhance their independence, well-being, and inclusion.

- **Notable aspects of SAC:** Comprised of nine major seniors' organizations, including CARP – Nova Scotia Chapter, Aging Well Nova Scotia, the National Association of Federal Retirees, the Nova Scotia Federation of Seniors, and the Nova Scotia Government Retired Employees Association (NSGREA).
- **Purpose:** Acts as a liaison between seniors and the Government of Nova Scotia (primarily through the Department of Seniors and Long-Term Care) to advise on and support better services, such as free vaccines and ongoing seniors pharmacare improvement.
- **Focus Areas:** The Council addresses issues like ageism, housing, transportation, justice, and health care to support an aging population.

The Council ensures the voices of older adults are directly heard by government decision-makers.

NSGREA has had a long and illustrious involvement going back as far as being a charter member of the Group of IX. President Patricia Murray and Communications Officer Valerie Bobyk attend SAC meetings and contribute heavily to the discussions. SAC works with Senior Executives from DSLTC to bring in speakers from across various government departments on topics of common interest and concern for discussion, overviews of existing programs, policies that may be under development, and often will send along folks to answer SAC members' questions on a myriad of topics. When SAC deals with items worth sharing, NSGREA will

include these discussions and presentations on our website, to ensure our membership sees the value of our involvement.

At our January Meeting there were several presentations made that provide a wonderful insight of government action. Please see below: