

available in Canada. Even at the present time in which there is widespread support for this notion, few such options are available through public provision. This means that for those who are most in need of supportive housing (those without economic means), it is least available.

Health care in the community and in the home is critically important if those with failing health are to age in place. Without entering the debate about cost effectiveness (not the topic of this paper), home care has been presented as an optimal service for an ageing society, a program of services that has been widely endorsed both within Canada and elsewhere. Unfortunately, health reform that is taking place at the current time in Canada does not suggest an expansion of an appropriate and adequate home care system for an ageing society. To the contrary, reforms to date suggest a transformation of a previously existing chronic care community system into a medical support system for intensive post-acute hospital care. The desirability and appropriateness of an expanded home care system for seniors, however does not seem to be in question.

The final issue discussed here related to diversity, with a particular emphasis on subcultural or ethnic diversity. This represents another social policy issue which has been acknowledged within Canada and for which there is much concern and the solutions have yet to be formulated. Available research suggests that some of the assumptions about subcultural groups are not accurate and that we require valid knowledge as a starting point for dealing with many of these issues. How best to provide health care, for example, for different subcultural groups, is a challenge with which Canadians are still struggling.

The issues that have been raised in this paper are all salient at the present time in Canada; they refer to currently acknowledged difficulties for seniors but difficulties that do not have obvious solutions, or, where the solution is known, do not have obvious paths of implementation. The extent to which satisfactory answers will be found within social policy and program delivery remains unknown at this time.